

Health Education England

Quality Team

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Dear

## Re: Training allowance for the Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) Programme

We have been contacted by several departments and trainees to ask for clarification about the use of the £13,000 per annum training allowance paid to placement providers for each HSST trainee. The training allowance is paid as part of the Learning Development Agreement (LDA) issued for all Health Education England (HEE) funded programmes, and its use may be monitored and/or audited to ensure that it is being used solely to support the education and development of the individual undertaking the HSST programme.

The training allowance is provided on the understanding that it be used flexibly within the employing department to cover the costs of accessing the programme, or address the opportunity costs of training that would include as a minimum but not exclusively:

- Expenses, including travel and accommodation costs associated with required HEI attendance as part of the DCLinSci
- Costs of taking Royal College of Pathology Examinations
- Costs of any additional learning that may be needed outside of the DCLinSci including travel and accommodation
- Research project costs
- Costs of cover to enable release of the individual undertaking HSST

We hope this clarification is useful.

Yours sincerely

Best wishes



**Jenny Hannington**

Head of Quality and Commissioning M&E