

Annual Quality Assurance Summary – Defence Postgraduate Medical Deanery

This summary provides an overview of how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in [Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training](#). It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	Defence Postgraduate Medical Deanery (DPMD)
Review period	June 2025 – May 2026 (Year 1)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
From the SAQ submission, and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that DPMD is meeting the standards set out in the GMC's <i>Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training</i>.

Quality Activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	SAQ submission	June 2025	The SAQ was submitted on time and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i>. The submission included a list of planned Defence Postgraduate Medical Deanery (DPMD) activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes. We are satisfied that where further information or clarification is still required that this can be provided in the next SAQ submission.
2	SAQ feedback meeting	August 2025	This meeting was held to provide feedback to DPMD on its 2025/26 SAQ submission, and to seek clarification and additional information on the submission where required. We also discussed potential QA activities we could undertake in this annual cycle. These activities were selected to improve our understanding of DPMD processes. We did not identify areas of risk during the SAQ meeting. Following this meeting, DPMD was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.
3	Activity: Q&A session with postgraduate education centre staff at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham.	October 2026	We will undertake this activity in the next cycle as the timings fall outside of this cycle. We will report on this in next year's AQAS.

Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by organisations when they identify that our standards are not being met in a training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	DPMD have no open items on the QRS. However, DPMD is engaged with the QRS system. We are assured that our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.

Requirements

We set requirements where we have found that our standards are not being met. We will monitor each organisation's response and will expect evidence that progress is being made during the next QA cycle.

No requirements have been set during this annual QA cycle.

Recommendations

We set recommendations where we have found areas for improvement related to our standards. They highlight areas an organisation should address to improve, in line with best practice.

We have not identified any significant gaps or areas for improvement relating to our standards, so no recommendations have been set during this annual QA cycle.

Next steps

The GMC's responses to the information submitted in the SAQ gives feedback on each theme to help DPMD complete the updates to the questionnaire in the next annual cycle.

These include:

Theme one: Learning environment and culture

LEC1-06 - Feedback loops from learners and educators

We would like to understand DPMD's processes for collecting qualitative feedback from resident doctors, either in the next SAQ or when the Quality Team has capacity to provide an action plan.

Theme two: Educational governance and leadership

EGL2-02 - You share information (including educational governance issues) between relevant organisations (including regulators, medical schools and royal colleges where relevant).

In a previous cycle, we observed fire-side chats where concerns from individuals are raised, discussed and actions recorded. In addition, during the SAQ feedback we heard that the deanery is exploring IT management solutions to look for trends within the data around concerns. We would be interested in hearing more about any trends within the data, and this should be provided in the next SAQ.

Organisation's response

The organisation has the right to reply to the AQAS; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisation's response