

National training survey

Data collection in 2026

National trainee survey 2026 data variable definitions

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
GMC number*	Mandatory	Must be a 7-digit number, e.g., '1234567'	This will be validated against our list of registered medical practitioners.
First name*	Mandatory	Free text	
Surname*	Mandatory	Free text, must match doctor's name on GMC Register	This will be validated against the list of registered medical practitioners.
1st programme approval code*	Mandatory	Must be 3 capital letter GMC deanery code followed by either 3 or 4 numbers, e.g., 'LON123'	This will be validated against your pre-approved reference data and the NTN. If a trainee is participating in more than one programme you must decide which one to report on. You can only choose one value.

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
1st programme specialty*	Mandatory	Free text, must match 1st programme approval code	This will be validated against your pre-approved reference data and therefore must be the correct specialty for the programme code provided.
2nd programme approval code (where applicable)	Mandatory where applicable	Must be 3 capital letter GMC deanery code followed by either 3 or 4 numbers, e.g., 'LON4567'	<p>This will be validated against your pre-approved reference data and the NTN.</p> <p>Collecting this data will enable us to identify the number of doctors on dual/triple CCTs and what specialties they are training in. If the post specialty matches the 2nd programme specialty, switch the programme approval codes and specialties so that the 1st programme specialty matches the post specialty.</p> <p>You can also include the higher specialty for doctors on run-through programmes completing the core training programme. The survey will not ask any questions on this specialty.</p>

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
2nd programme specialty (where applicable)	Mandatory where applicable	Free text, must match 2nd programme approval code	This will be validated against your pre-approved reference data and therefore must be the correct specialty for the programme code provided.
Training level*	Mandatory	<p>Must be a two- or three-character code, conforming to one of the following values: F1-2, CT1-4 or ST1-8. 'CT' or 'ST' with no number following is not an acceptable value.</p> <p>Please note: SpR is not a valid training level for the national training survey. For these trainees, NHSE local offices /deaneries must provide an equivalent ST or CT level for the doctor.</p>	This must be a valid value for the selected programme. A validation warning will also highlight instances where the value is unexpected.
Post specialty	Mandatory	<p>Free text must match a value on pre-determined list.</p> <p>Please use 'Academic' to indicate any doctors that are currently completing the academic component of their training. Doctors whose training is split between clinical and academic training should have their clinical post specialty recorded.</p>	This is the post specialty and is independent of the programme specialty. The description must exactly match one of the pre-determined post specialty descriptions used in the data collection tool. If a trainee holds more than one post, you must choose which one to report on.

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
Post start date	Mandatory if 'in training' value is 'yes'	Must be provided in UK dd/mm/yyyy format.	This date must be on or before the census date.
Post end date	Mandatory if 'in training' value is 'yes'	Must be provided in UK dd/mm/yyyy format.	This date must be on or after the census date.
Board or trust code	Mandatory where applicable	Must be an approved board or trust code, typically 3 or more characters, e.g., 'RKB'	This will be validated against the list of locations for the 1st programme specialty selected, as agreed in your pre-approved reference data.
Board or trust name	Not mandatory	Free text	This should be provided wherever a board or trust code has been provided. When we load your data into the survey, we will use the board or trust code you have provided to derive the name, based on your pre-approved reference data. The validation tool will check that the name you enter in this field matches the name associated with the code in the reference data.

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
Site code	Mandatory where applicable	Must be an approved site code, typically 5 or more characters, e.g., 'RKB15'	This will be validated against the list of locations for the programme selected.
Site name	Not mandatory	Free text	This should be provided wherever a site code has been provided. When we load your data into the survey, we will use the site code you have provided to derive the name, based on your pre-approved reference data. The validation tool will check that the name you enter in this field matches the name associated with the code in the reference data.
In training*	Mandatory	Must be either 'Yes' or 'No'.	Where the trainee is not in training for any of the given reasons on the census date, please enter 'No'. Where the trainee should be surveyed, please enter 'Yes'.

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
Not in training reason*	Mandatory if 'in training' value is 'No'	<p>Must be one of the following values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Contract Termination' ▪ 'Gross Misconduct' ▪ 'F2 outside the UK' ▪ 'Maternity/Paternity Leave' ▪ 'Other reason' ▪ 'Out of Programme Career Break' ▪ 'Out of Programme Experience' ▪ 'Out of Programme Research' ▪ 'Out of Programme Pause' ▪ 'Out of Programme Acting Up' ▪ 'Out of Prog Training not in UK' <p><i>this applies where the trainee is on OOPT outside of a UK-based approved programme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Out of GMC-appvd Prog Training' <p><i>this applies where the trainee is OOPT in the UK but not in an GMC approved programme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Out of Programme Training' ▪ 'Post CCT' ▪ 'Sick Leave' 	<p>This must be provided if you select 'No' in the 'in training' field. It will be validated against the pre-defined list of values.</p> <p>Trainees on GMC approved UK-based training programmes should be included as 'in training' with 'OOPT UK-Based' as their Trainee type.</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 'Suspension' ▪ 'Resigned from programme' 	

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
Trainee type	Mandatory where applicable	<p>Must be one of the following codes:</p> <hr/> <p>ACF academic clinical fellow</p> <hr/> <p>AFT academic foundation trainee</p> <hr/> <p>CL clinical lecturer</p> <hr/> <p>FTSTA fixed term specialty training appointment</p> <hr/> <p>LAT locum appointment for training</p> <hr/> <p>SpR specialist registrar</p> <p><i>Use this value where trainee is an SpR, and you have provided equivalent ST or CT values as their training level</i></p> <hr/> <p>OOPT – UK based</p> <p><i>Use this value to indicate trainees that are on OOPT from another approved training programme within the UK</i></p> <hr/> <p>Post CCT in subspecialty</p> <p><i>Use this value to indicate doctors who have been awarded their CCT but are continuing with sub-specialty training</i></p>	This must be provided if one of the values applies to a doctor. It will be validated against the pre-defined list of values.

Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules																											
NTN/DRN*	Mandatory, except for foundation programmes which should be blank	<p>NTN/DRN for trainees must be in the following format:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Format</th> <th colspan="2">DDD/XXX-ACA/XXXXXXXX/C</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Where</td> <td>DDD</td> <td>Parent Organisation</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>XXX</td> <td>Specialty</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>XXX.XXX</td> <td>Subspecialty</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>XXX-XXX</td> <td>Dual Specialty</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>XXX-XXX-XXX</td> <td>Triple Specialty</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>ACA*</td> <td>Academic trainee (if applicable)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>XXXXXXXX</td> <td>GMC Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>C/CP/D/L</td> <td>Type of appointment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>See the National Training Numbers appendix on the GMC website for further details on the acceptable new formats of NTNs and DRNs.</p>	Format	DDD/XXX-ACA/XXXXXXXX/C		Where	DDD	Parent Organisation		XXX	Specialty		XXX.XXX	Subspecialty		XXX-XXX	Dual Specialty		XXX-XXX-XXX	Triple Specialty		ACA*	Academic trainee (if applicable)		XXXXXXXX	GMC Number		C/CP/D/L	Type of appointment	<p>An error will be given if no value is provided (please ignore this for foundation trainees).</p> <p>Please provide all NTNs and DRNs in the new format as indicated in the NTN Appendix.</p> <p>Collection of this field will help to resolve any queries regarding the doctor's training programme and assist with identifying academic trainees. The NTN/DRN specialty will also be validated against the programme specialty submitted for a trainee.</p> <p>*The academic indicator, ACA, can be placed either before, or after the specialty code(s) within the specialty component</p>
Format	DDD/XXX-ACA/XXXXXXXX/C																													
Where	DDD	Parent Organisation																												
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	XXX.XXX	Subspecialty																												
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Field	Requirement	Definition	Validation rules
Management deanery/LETB	Mandatory for London shared services	(all deanery/LETB values listed)	
Multisite trainee	Mandatory where applicable	Must be either 'Yes' or 'No'	Where a trainee cannot be identified as having a primary site location because they spend an equal amount of time across various sites it should be indicated here that they are a multisite trainee.

For doctors not in training, we only require the fields highlighted with an '*'

Please note that we are not collecting the doctor's email address from Deaneries/NHSE local offices as we will use the email address that we hold against the doctor's GMC online account.