

As a representative body for resident doctors across Scotland, the Scottish Academy Resident Doctors Group (SARDG) is deeply concerned about the error in the MRCP(UK) Part 2 written examination that led to 283 resident doctors being given the incorrect examination result in September 2023. We fully support the statement made by the resident doctor committees of the three Royal Colleges of Physicians.

We are concerned about the emotional, financial and human impact on those who were incorrectly advised they had passed or failed. There must be urgent clarification of the implications for recruitment and training. This is a challenging time to be a resident doctor in the UK, with high levels of burnout and moral injury as we continue caring for patients in a system under intense pressure. The emotional toll of the examination error must be viewed within this context and addressed accordingly.

The magnitude of this error and the delay in its identification raise concerns about the examination process. Postgraduate medical examinations must have the confidence of the profession and the wider public. Resident doctors in all specialties need reassurance that postgraduate medical examination results are fully verified in a timely manner.

We hope that the planned review is timely and comprehensive, with the early explicit involvement of resident doctor groups. SARDG urge all colleges to seek the lessons of the upcoming review to prevent further distress for our members in the future.