

Dr Mark D Stoneham
Chair, VASGBI
c/o Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way
Headington
Oxford
OX3 9DU

Thursday 3rd March 2011

Dear Mark,

Many thanks for your letter of 13th January 2011.

AAGBI Council discussed the issues raised in your letter. In fact several of us are familiar with the changes you describe happening nationally.

Many of the service changes from our members' perspective will differ depending on the size and configuration of their base hospital. Vascular anaesthesia is one aspect of the service to be covered along with obstetric, paediatric, cardiac etc. In many places having a vascular specialist out of hours will be difficult to achieve. There are also service changes occurring with screening programmes and endovascular repair.

The issue of changes to the curriculum is a matter for the RCoA and I know your letter to Peter was debated at RCoA Council recently.

We know that vascular surgery has applied to become a recognised specialty in its own right, and that there is increasing centralisation of vascular surgery, especially for emergency work. There will be real challenges even in the largest units in providing a separate specialist vascular anaesthesia on call rota both in terms of frequency of on call and criteria for inclusion. I look forward to hearing the RCoA's view.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Iain H Wilson
President, AAGBI