



SMPCETS Open Day - 2025

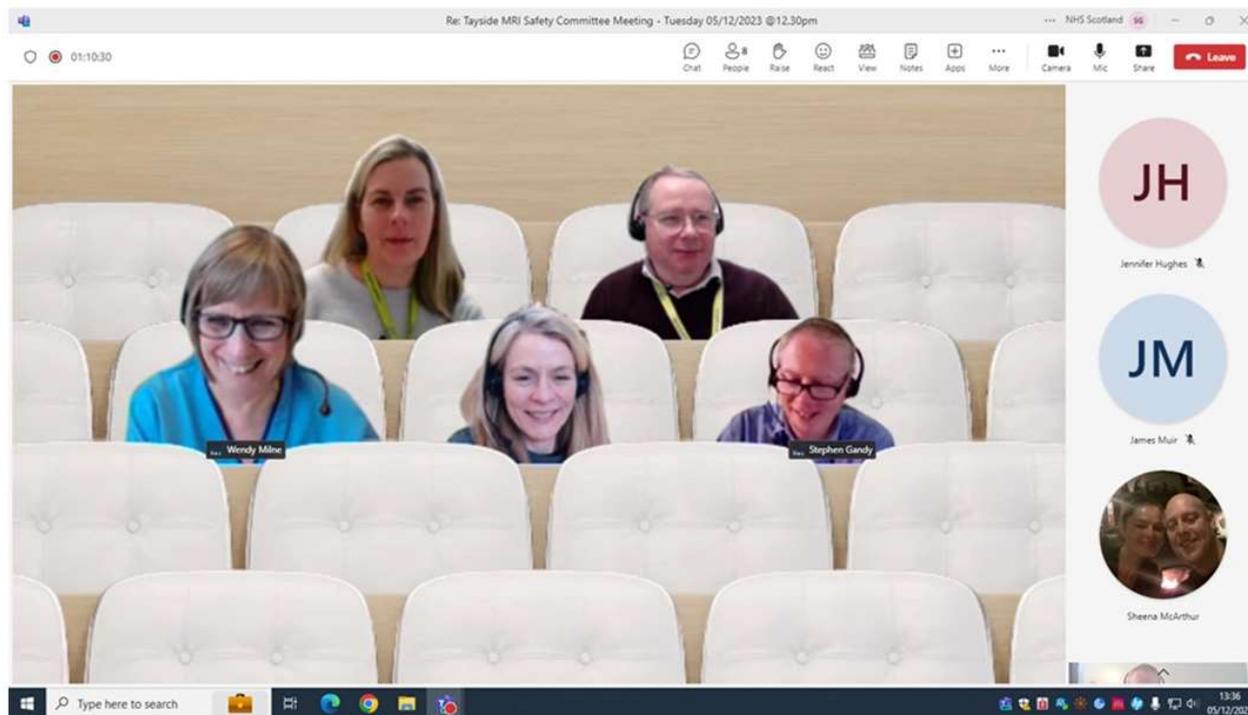
<https://www.smpcets.scot.nhs.uk>

Stephen Gandy
MRI Clinical Scientist
NHS Tayside



Meeting Etiquette

- Camera off, microphone on mute
- Questions? Type any questions into the chat facility
- Questions – will review at end of each presentation
- Towards the end of the session we will review all questions from the chat



Poll: Getting to Know You Questions

Purpose of the Event

From Your Perspective

- To learn about MP & CE careers at NHS Scotland
- To learn more about how the SMPCETS works
- Hear from current staff and trainees about their experiences

From Our Perspective

- Address employment needs of MP & CE within NHS Scotland
- To attract the highest quality applications for the four positions on offer

Learn about MP&CE and Meet Current Staff & Trainees

- Ask any questions – we will endeavour to answer them all

Scottish Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Training Scheme (SMPCETS)
Open Day – Monday 10 February 2025

		Speaker
08:30	Teams meeting open	
09:00	Introduction to SMPCETS	Stephen Gandy (Dundee)
A “day in the life” sessions		
09:20	MP: Nuclear Medicine	Jenny McCormick (Aberdeen)
09:35	MP: MRI	Jennifer Hughes (Dundee)
09:50	CE: Rehab Engineering	Beth Dias-Scoon (SMART)
10:05	Short break	
10:15	MP: Diagnostic Radiology / Radiation Protection	Janice O’Neill (Dundee)
10:30	MP: Radiotherapy	Emma McIntosh (Dundee)
10:45	CE: MEM, D&D, CM	Peter Cook (Highlands)
11:00	Short break	
Trainee Talks		
11:10	Experience as a FY MP trainee	Eirin Beese
11:25	Experience as a SY MP trainee	Johanna Looser
11:40	Short break	
	4 x parallel breakout sessions	Trainees available – 2 breakout rooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mollie McFarlane • Rachel Park • Eirin Beese • Bethany Aylward • Richard Allan • Benjamin Ashton • Ross Collins • Johanna Looser
12:20	Feedback from breakout sessions, final questions and closing remarks	Steve Gandy
12:30	Close	

SMPCETS - Overview

Medical Physics

Year 1	Full time MSc (Glasgow or Aberdeen)	
Year 2	Four 11 week rotations: Radiotherapy, Radiation Protection, Imaging with Non-ionising Radiation and Imaging with Ionising Radiation	Attachement unique to centre
	Mid-way Portfolio and QA Viva	
Years 3 - 3.5	Specialism: 1.5 years to include a 3-6 month innovation project	
	AHCS Equivalence portfolio and viva	
	HCPC Registration	

Clinical Engineering

Year 1	Full time MSc (Strathclyde University)	
Year 2	Four 11 week rotations: Clinical Measurement & ICT, Design & Development, Rehabilitation Engineering & Device Risk Management and Governance	Attachement unique to centre
	Mid-way Portfolio and QA Viva	
Years 3 - 3.5	Specialism: 1.5 years to include a 3-6 month innovation project	
	AHCS Equivalence portfolio and viva	
	HCPC Registration	

- Fixed term, supernumerary contracts – MSc fees and band 6 salary
- **No guarantee of employment afterwards**, although many trainees are taken on
- 27 days annual leave, may be expected to work late on occasions
- SMPCETS = STP equivalence, not STP

Medical Physics or Clinical Engineering?

- Are you interested in MP or CE?
- Supporting statement – **tell us clearly which you are applying for**
- Think very carefully about supporting statement if you wish to apply for both MP and CE. If you ‘hedge your bets’ and apply for both generically then how can you make a convincing case to compete with applications from those who are already clear about their chosen careers?
- If you have a CE background but wish to apply for MP (or vice versa), then this is permitted – important to make the circumstances clear
- SMPSETS provides training in each of the major fields of MP & CE – if you are solely focused on one specific area, then consider applying directly for a job in that area
- Posts – 2xMP, 2xCE. Last year – around 220 applicants. Don’t be despondent if you don’t make it first time – some of our trainees have been appointed after 2-3 attempts

Levels of Previous Experience

- Applicants – usually from three generalised backgrounds (not exclusive)
- (i) Those just finished BSc or MSc studies in an area related to Physics or Engineering. Probably with the least experience
- (ii) Those with completed PhD's and/or some fixed term work
- (iii) Those already in the NHS (e.g. technicians) who wish to become a clinical scientist in MP or CE. Potentially with the most experience
- SMPCETS welcomes qualifying applications – we are a 'training scheme' and do not expect a trainee to know everything before they commence. But...
- ...you should demonstrate that you know what you are applying for, why you are applying for it, and why you are the correct person for a post
- Applications are considered fairly. All centres are involved in the short-listing process, applications evaluated without bias
- Overseas applicants – please ensure that you are eligible to work in the UK, e.g. correct visa status, have qualifications approved via ENIC, etc

Application – Supporting Statement

- “What to put into the Supporting Statement”? Not going to answer that! No SOP for it, demonstrates inability to think autonomously
- Ways to ask the same question – e.g. ask a trainee what they think made them ‘stand out from the rest’ when they applied for the post
- Supporting statement – bespoke information about your personalised suitability for the posts on offer. Some level of knowledge/experience of MP or CE is useful – understand what you are applying for, why you are applying, and why you are the correct person for a post
- Junior applicants - considered equitably alongside senior applicants – please state if ‘predicted grades’ (e.g. from coursework) are declared
- Do not attempt to follow-up your application with a personal email to myself or colleagues with supporting CV materials etc. Review process is entirely blinded and fair, any attempt to override it will be looked upon negatively
- Generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT). We can spot this easily. Last year, there were at least 50 applications where GAI was detected – none made the shortlist

Practical Steps

- Short-listing process is likely to happen during March 2025
- Those selected for interview will be contacted in early April 2025
- Interviews will take place in person (Edinburgh) – 14th & 15th May 2025
- Interview likely to involve representatives from each training centre (up to 5 panel members) – about 30 minutes per applicant
- The person successful at interview will be contacted shortly afterwards with an offer of a 'band 6' training place at one of the major centres
- MP posts - Lothian and GGC, Rehab Eng posts - Grampian and Highland
- In the unlikely event that funding for a further place is available at the last minute then we will do our best to offer any additional opportunity
- Overseas applicants – clear evidence of visa status and entitlement to work in the UK (without restrictions) is required. NHS sponsorship for international applicants may be available if posts cannot be filled by UK applicants (UKVI)
- Speak with current trainees who will tell you all about their experiences

Reminder: **please state clearly what you are applying for!** Any Questions?