# South East Imaging Reporting Radiography Funding 2024/25

## Information for NHS organisations on how to access this funding, including the application process.

For any queries about this funding or details within this document, please contact the NHS England South East Cancer and Diagnostic Programme, part of the Workforce, Training & Education directorate, england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Key Messages**

**We have funding to support Reporting Radiography upskilling training grants in 2024/25 and are therefore progressing with Round 2 applications**

This document details the 2024/25 offer for **Reporting Radiography** expressions of interest.

The funding offer is designed to continue the increase of radiographers contributing to image interpretation and reporting within clinical imaging teams.

**This funding**

* Is available to support existing HCPC registered Diagnostic Radiographers working in a South East NHS organisation.
* Can be used to upskill reporting radiography workforce specifically to develop capability in image interpretation, and reporting, and integration of their new skills into local service provision.
* This can be done via a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, or part of a wider ‘Advanced Practice’ Programme of study, which will already exist within the nationally approved [Society and College of Radiographers (ScoR) list.](https://www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/education/post-registration-courses)
* It comprises of a total funding offer of **£27,932** for **course fees**, **clinical supervision grant** for education mentorship, coaching and supervision and provision of protected learning spaces, and a **training grant** to support and enable Trusts to release trainees.
* Being offered to all NHS Trusts within SE Imaging Network geographies. This includes Trusts within Dorset ICS [SE3 Imaging Network] and Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust [part of SE1 Imaging Network].

**Deadline for funding applications Round 2**

* **The application window for Round 2 will open early June 2024 and will close at 9am on Friday 26 July 2024**.
* It is possible that a third application round will run later in the year, subject to available funding but at this stage we aren’t able to confirm this.
* Outcome for applications submitted in Round 1 (March/April) are in the process of being communicated. There is no need to resubmit earlier applications.

Funding is required to be spent and fully utilised by 31 March 2025, and chosen courses and formal education must start before 31 March 2025, where applicable.

For any queries please email england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Overview**

NHS England is committed to continuing the increase of radiographers contributing to image interpretation and reporting within clinical imaging teams. Over 110 radiographers have now undertaken approved training to help them progress towards advanced and consultant practice roles in the South East. We are looking to continue this support for 2024/25 and are writing to invite you to apply.

This offer includes:

* Financial support towards **radiographer salary during training.**
* Financial support to cover **course fees (up to 60 Masters level credits maximum).**
* Provision of **clinical education mentorship, coaching & supervision.**

Working with South East Imaging Networks, NHSE is offering employers an opportunity to upskill their Reporting Radiography workforce specifically to develop capability in image interpretation, and reporting, through the award of a Postgraduate Certificate, or Postgraduate Diploma, and integration of their new skills into local service provision. It is expected that Reporting Radiographers will work within the Radiology reporting team.

Several appropriate training courses offering Masters level postgraduate qualifications in either image interpretation and reporting or including this as an option in a wider ‘advanced practice’ programme of study, already exist and are nationally approved by the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR). The approved courses are accessible at [Society and College of Radiographers (ScoR) list.](https://www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/education/post-registration-courses)

Courses are available from this autumn and interested applicants are advised to secure early agreement with their employer, and provisional course acceptance. In parallel, employers are asked to apply to NHSE SE Cancer & Diagnostics Programme [Workforce, Training and Education] who will review applications and agree funding with the employer and relevant Imaging Network.

**The funding offer**

The offer to Trusts for each radiographer comprises:

* **£3,714 course fees (must be a SCoR nationally approved Masters level Training Programme - e.g. up to 60 credits – PgCert)**
* **£9,265 clinical supervision grant for education mentorship, coaching and supervision, and provision of protected learning spaces (e.g. workstations dedicated for trainee use, academy-style training hubs). Please note, a clinical supervisor can be either a Consultant Radiologist or experienced Reporting Radiographer.**
* **£14,953 training grant to support and enable Trusts to release trainees. This will be provided in 3 instalments.**
* The total package of support offered to each learner is **£27,932**

This training grant is available as a pro-rata payment across two financial years, 2024/25 and 2025/26. We are awaiting confirmation of the specific breakdown of this financial model and will confirm details when we have received them.

We are working with colleagues from the NHSE SE Contracts team with regard to the new NHSE Education Funding Agreement and anticipate that our Cancer & Diagnostics programme will continue to use this agreement as the route to transfer monies to your organisation.

**Eligibility**

Participants must be existing HCPC registered diagnostic radiographers working in an NHS organisation in England, they must have the support of their local Imaging Service Manager and Clinical Director: they must meet the entry requirements for postgraduate study at the chosen HEI and their training (and subsequent practice) must address an identified service need.

It is vital to continue the increase of radiographers contributing to image interpretation and reporting within clinical imaging teams. For 2024/25, in order to ensure sustainability of the investment in the learner and department, we will be asking for details of the named clinical supervisor, job title and email address. [Consultant Radiologist or experienced Reporting Radiographer].

We are also interested in finding out where Trusts/departments are with ensuring sustainability and return on investment for Reporting Radiographers, and the application form therefore includes questions relating to protected reporting time in job plans and /or a protected reporting post / vacancy within the Imaging department for the trainee post qualification.

**Training courses**

Several appropriate training courses offering Masters level postgraduate qualifications in either image interpretation and reporting already exist and are nationally approved by SCoR ([Society and College of Radiographers (ScoR) list.](https://www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/education/post-registration-courses)).

Participants will be supported to undertake:

* Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits) covering reporting in a single clinical domain, e.g. musculoskeletal, chest, CT head etc.
* Postgraduate Diploma ‘top up’ covering additional aspects of reporting if a PgCert is already held by the radiographer.
* An option in a wider ‘advanced practice’ programme of study.

The scheme cannot be used to fund the final (research) stage of an MSc programme.

**How to access this funding**

**Completion and submission of online application form.**

**Deadline – 9am on Friday 27 July 2024**

* Please complete [Reporting Radiography application form](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/healtheducationyh/round2-nhse-se-cancer-diagnostics-funding-application-3) and submit by 9am on Friday 27 July 2024
* Please note, that applications must not be submitted by individual learners themselves; all applications must be submitted on behalf of the named learner e.g., by a line manager / head of department / education lead etc.

All applications will be reviewed by the NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme team [Workforce, Training and Education].

Training grants, once agreed, would be available as a pro-rata payment in the 2024/25 financial year and the 2025/26 financial year. If for any reason the learner needs to withdraw from or is unable to complete their Programme, funding will need to be returned to NHSE.

We are working with colleagues from the NHSE SE Contracts team with regard to the new NHSE Education Funding Agreement and anticipate that our Cancer & Diagnostics programme will continue to use this agreement as the route to transfer monies to your organisation.

**Expectations of organisations upon application of funding**

* If approved, all investment will be subject to reporting requirements (outlined below).
* If approved, that all funding is managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes.

**Reporting and monitoring investment**

NHSE SE are required to provide full details of the use of this funding to the national NHSE Cancer and Diagnostics programme so that investment can be appropriately reported. Where funding has been used to support an individual, the national Programme team may keep a database of participant details (to include role, Trust, HEI / training provider).

Organisations receiving this funding will be required to provide twice-yearly updates [October 2024 and April 2025] relating to the status of each individual learner; guidance and templates will be provided later in the year.

It is intended that this offer will lead to:

* Additional capacity or the release of radiologist time through additional reporting radiographer sessions.
* An increase in the proportion of examinations reported by radiographers and / or
* A reduction in the number of examinations waiting more than 10 days for interpretation and reporting.

NHSE SE will be undertaking an impact and evaluation report based on this regional Reporting Radiography offer. This will include considering how the investment has:

* Improved resilience of the Reporting Radiography workforce.
* Enabled an increase in the proportion of exams reported by Radiographers.
* Enabled a reduction in the number of exams waiting more than 7 days for interpretation & reporting.
* Resulting in additional capacity for the Clinical Radiologist reporting workforce.
* Increased job satisfaction of the Reporting Radiographers.
* Reduced attrition of Reporting Radiographers.
* Skills have been integrated into local service provision.
* Learners have progressed into their career e.g., re-grading into specialist and/or advanced practice.
* Learners have progressed into leadership and/or education roles.
* Greater collaboration within the MDTs.

**Course completion**

Following completion, the participant will be expected to demonstrate capability in image interpretation and reporting through the award of PgCert or PgDip and integration of their new skills into local service provision.

Participants should also be able to evidence career progression, for example by re-grading into a specialist / advanced practice role. We are also interested in finding out where Trusts/departments are with ensuring sustainability and return on investment for Reporting Radiographers, and the application form therefore includes questions relating to protected reporting time in job plans and /or a protected reporting post / vacancy within the Imaging department for the trainee post qualification.

Continued clinical and academic progression will be important to support the development of expertise and enable reporting radiographers benefitting from this scheme to fully participate in MDT care, leadership and research roles and achieve professional accreditation as advanced or consultant practitioners.

**Further Information**

**Standard for the education and training of reporting practitioners in musculoskeletal (MSK) plain radiographs**

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) in collaboration with the College of Radiographers (CoR) in 2022 published the [MSK X-ray reporting standards](https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/standards-for-the-education-and-training-of-reporting-practitioners-in-musculoskeletal-plain-radiographs/)which sets out the education and training of all healthcare professionals who report MSK plain radiographs as part of a clinical imaging service, and to ensure that the training of all reporting practitioners meets the same minimum requirements.

**Standard for the education, training, and preceptorship of reporting practitioners in adult chest X-ray**

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) in collaboration with the Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) in 2023 published the [Adult chest X-ray reporting standards](https://www.rcr.ac.uk/our-services/all-our-publications/clinical-radiology-publications/standards-for-the-education-training-and-preceptorship-of-reporting-practitioners-in-adult-chest-x-ray/) which sets out the education and training required for all members of the multiprofessional team who report CXRs within a clinical imaging service.

The document is aimed at reporting practitioners, their trainers, and employers. With a framework to structure learning, guide education and training provision and to support practitioners to deliver safe and sustainable clinical practice.

**NHS England – NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (2023)**

The long-awaited [NHS England Long Term Workforce Plan](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-v1.2.pdf) was published in 2023, outlining the case for change for all NHS workforce to deliver more patient care than ever before. This plan focuses on three priority areas of Train, Retain and Reform, which aims to make sustainable progress on core priorities for patients.

**Who to contact if you have any queries on this offer?**

The NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme - england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Frequently Asked Questions**

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| **Question** | **Response**  |
| 1 | Which professional groups can utilise this funding? | Funding is available to support existing HCPC registered radiographers and aspiring reporting radiographers working in a South East NHS organisation including Radiography, Mammography and Sonography. Funding could not be used to support Clinical Radiology Doctors in training. |
| 2 | What does the ‘clinical supervision grant’ mean? | This portion of funding is available for clinical education mentorship, coaching and supervision to enable postgraduate reporting radiographer students in their training. This includes a named Clinical Supervisor, who can be either a Consultant Radiologist or experience Reporting Radiographer. It also includes the provision of protected learning spaces, e.g., workstations dedicated for trainee use or Academy style training hubs. |
| 3 | What can the ‘training grant’ be spent on? | This portion of the funding is available to enable and support the learner’s Trust to release the trainee. It may be used towards the cost of salary or any other costs associated with the trainee successfully completing their training programme. |
| 4 | Can this funding be used for courses which don’t finish in 2024/25? | Yes, if the learner is on programme by 31.3.2025, a course may be completed in 2025/26 financial year. |
| 5 | Please can you advise which reporting courses are available? | Please review the SCoR link to note which reporting courses are available - [SCoR approved course list.](https://www.collegeofradiographers.ac.uk/education/post-registration-courses) |
| 6 | What are the requirements of accepting this funding? | * All investment will be subject to reporting requirements.
* All funding must be managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes.
* Managers must support their staff to access training.
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