



Consortium for the
Accreditation of
Sonographic Education

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

(1st October 2020 to 30th September 2021)



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Introduction from the CASE Member Organisation's Chair



Phil Morgan, IPEM CEO

Welcome to the CASE Annual Report

The Consortium is dedicated to high standards in the practice of sonography. The need for this was underlined in November 2020 by a BBC investigation into private ultrasound clinics revealing poor practice and patient care. Sonography remains unregulated and although CASE is lobbying the Government on this point (see page 7) the risks to patient care and the clear clinical value of ultrasound means we need CASE more than ever.

To maintain CASE as a force for good in the years to come, this year we committed to a new strategic framework, focusing our time and resources on growth, sustainability, and modernisation. Health Education England, recognising the good outcomes driven by CASE, provided project funding and financial support for Gill Dolbear as Education Officer in 2020. Through this, and Gill's efforts in the role, CASE has progressed several projects including Guidance for APMR Completion and exploring the interface between multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice and sonographic education.

This year also saw CASE branch out, offering training to accreditors through launching a range of webinars. We published a position statement in response to the government's consultation on the regulation of professions and also undertook the first accreditation of a non-UK course. These and other achievements are outlined in greater detail in the following pages.

Covid-19 continued to disrupt 'normal business' so expenditure remained in a similar profile to 2020. Funding from HEE secured in 2020 was spent in 2021, and the income for the year, based on increased member organisation contributions and accreditation fees, dropped back to regular levels, hence the accounts show a marginal deficit. Although there is a healthy level of operating reserve, the member organisations remain committed to progressively increasing their contribution to keep CASE and its good work going for as long as necessary.

The accreditors, who are clinical sonographers and educators, are an outstanding team. Thanks to their enthusiastic work, CASE continues to drive quality of service and good patient outcomes. It is because of them we can claim to directly deliver a public benefit. CASE rests on the commitment of its member organisations and it has been an education and a privilege for me to chair the group's meetings this year. Sally Hawking of IPEM has, as ever, worked tremendously hard, keeping the show on the road, and guiding us wisely behind the scenes.

I commend this report to you and draw your attention to the ongoing work listed on page 11, which outlines how CASE will continue to serve the public by supporting the highest standards in sonography education.



Phil Morgan
CASE Member Organisation's Chair 2020 – Present



About CASE

CASE was established in 1993 to allow organisations with a shared interest to come together to provide appropriate and relevant oversight of all aspects of sonographic education.

It is operated on a not-for-profit basis and is not formally incorporated as a company or a charity.

It relies on volunteers to commit their time to ensure that students who graduate from its accredited courses do so with the best in education, mentor support and clinical competency; thus preparing the sonographic workforce of the future.

About the Member Organisations of CASE

Member Organisations (MOs) are normally those which have direct responsibilities and interest in the practice of sonography and its education and training. They are independent bodies with their own professional concerns in relation to the research, education and practice of medical ultrasound.

Member Organisations share in common the concern that education must continue to develop to meet changing technology, clinical practice and service requirements. They recognise the need to collaborate to set and maintain standards, optimise education and training development and provision, and make validation and accreditation procedures as robust as possible. They understand the need to do this in conjunction with the relevant external bodies, including statutory bodies.

In 2020-21, the MOs of CASE were:



The British Medical Ultrasound Society



The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy



The Royal College of Podiatry



The College of Radiographers



The Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine



The Society for Vascular Technology of Great Britain and Ireland

(NB. the British Society of Echocardiography joined the Consortium after 30th September 2021)

How CASE works

The primary role of the Consortium is to accredit high quality training programmes and focused courses that promote best ultrasound practice and ensure that ultrasound practitioners are safe and competent to practise, whilst taking into account informed views of service needs.

The strategic direction and policy of CASE are decided by the Member Organisations which make up the Consortium. The MOs meet twice a year (minimum) and set a financial and business plan for the Consortium.

Each MO nominates three appropriately qualified representatives from amongst its own membership to serve on the CASE Committee, with two out of the three (usually) attending each meeting.

The CASE Committee is responsible for implementing CASE policy. In addition to virtual meetings, the Committee normally (although not during Covid) meet in person three times a year to:

- establish a co-ordinated approach to setting, maintaining and enhancing standards of education and training in sonography, ensuring that the standards are and remain approved by the Consortium
- ensure, via a co-ordinated programme of validation and monitoring, that the standards of education and training in sonography are being set, maintained and enhanced
- undertake validation and periodic review of individual education and training programmes and focused courses in sonography, and to accredit programmes and focused courses in the name of the Consortium.

A comprehensive CASE Handbook guides the CASE Committee in its work, and regular CASE training sessions help to keep assessors' skills up to date.

Support services are provided by an MO (currently IPEM) who is responsible, under contract, for allocating staff to the roles of CASE Coordinator and CASE Finance Officer.



Mission Statement and Aims



To be the provider of choice for advice on the development and delivery of ultrasound education and training and to be the only recognised accreditor for ultrasound courses.

Our Aims:

1. To accredit high quality clinical* ultrasound education and training programmes (including focused courses, stand-alone modules and CPD) that promote best ultrasound practice and provide assurance that ultrasound practitioners are safe and competent to practice.
2. To identify the current and future needs of service providers with respect to clinical* ultrasound education and training and advise on education and training to meet the changing service and workforce needs.
3. To evaluate new and innovative training and education pathways at all academic levels and to accredit when appropriate to do so.
4. To monitor CASE accredited programmes of ultrasound education and training to ensure they continue to meet appropriate standards.
5. To assist with the development of ultrasound education and training programmes.

**The term 'clinical' recognises the multi-disciplinary nature of the workforce; in other circumstances the word 'medical' may be used.*



CASE sign a letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care about Sonographer Regulation along with other Organisations

At the time of writing, the Society of Radiographers (SoR) are leading on a letter to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, highlighting the need for sonographer regulation. The letter outlines the risks to patient care if sonography remains unregulated following the publication of a report by the [Professional Standards Authority](#) in 2019. CASE is receiving increased interest from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) wanting to develop 'direct entry' ultrasound programmes at both undergraduate and post graduate levels. If accreditation is achieved, these programmes will enable non-healthcare professionals to complete CASE accredited programmes of study to become regulated sonographers.

The funding band for the [BSc \(Hons\) integrated apprenticeship in ultrasound](#) has recently been increased, making it more viable for HEIs to develop apprenticeship programmes for ultrasound. This coupled with the increased funding from Health Education England to support ultrasound clinical training academies, is expected to lead to additional numbers of sonographers exiting CASE accredited programmes without a statutorily registered profession. There are limitations in the work that non-registered health care professionals can do, particularly in extended roles such as acting as a referrer under IR(ME)R 2017, becoming a supplementary prescriber or using patient group directions under the Human Medicines regulations 2012.

The letter includes the current situation in relation to registered and non-registered sonographers and tries to offer a simple solution to the regulation of sonographers. Signatories to the letter include both the chair of CASE committee and chair of the CASE Member Organisations, BMUS, BSE, RCR, RCOG, RCM, SoR and SVT. If there is any progress with the lobbying, it will be disseminated via the appropriate channels including the CASE website.



Achievements in 2020 – 2021

During this year:

- We agreed a new strategy framework for the next four years, prioritising growth, sustainability and modernisation
- We secured funding from HEE and commenced work on a project to *‘Explore the Interface between the Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice and Sonographic Education’*.
- We offered bespoke and individual training sessions to Accreditors for the first time and launched a series of online webinars to cover the topics of:
 - Principles of Focused Course Accreditation
 - BSc Programme Accreditation
 - Lead Accreditor Role
 - Co-Accreditor Role
 - Assessing Clinical Support & Clinical Components
- A position statement in response to the *‘Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Regulation of Professions Call for Evidence’* was agreed and submitted to the Dept of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
- We also published position statements on:
 - Tightening requirements for 3rd Trimester Obstetrics focused courses re. Saving Babies Lives Care Bundle version 2
 - The decision not to support courses aimed only at social scanning rather than for medical purposes
 - Recommending synchronised events between CASE & Universities
- The Education Officer progressed the APMR process, re-designed the questionnaire so that the information we receive is more useful and created a narrated *‘Guidance for APMR Completion’* presentation for the website
- Work began on the Handbook revision which will be transformed into a compendium with sections dedicated to the differing types of courses and programmes we accredit
- A team of experts (both internal and external to CASE) concluded the review of all the accredited MSK courses and began working on the principles and position statements to underpin future MSK accreditations
- The first non-UK course for accreditation, at University College Dublin, was successfully accredited

- It was a very quiet year for accreditations otherwise due to the ongoing Covid situation and many events continue to be delayed/postponed, however:
 - One MSc programme was re-accredited
 - One focus course was re-accredited
 - One Interim Review was successfully completed
- A record 18 universities submitted a satisfactory return to the CASE annual programme monitoring review (APMR)
- The Committee Chair began a series of 1:1 discussions with Accreditors to identify their needs, gaps in the training and what CASE can do to better support them
- 68 requests for help and information via the website were dealt with
- 40,835 visits were made to the CASE website which represents an increase of 2% on the previous year



CASE Finances

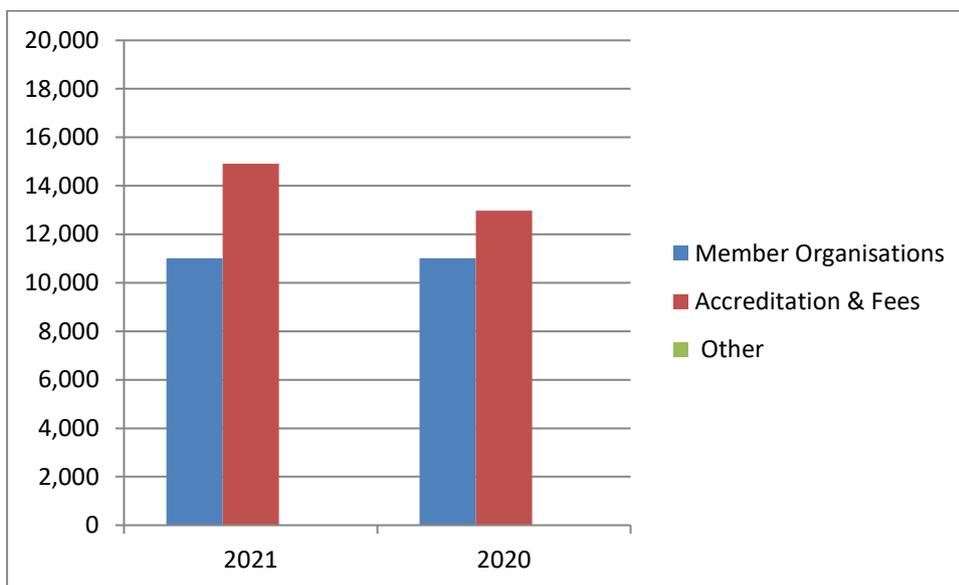
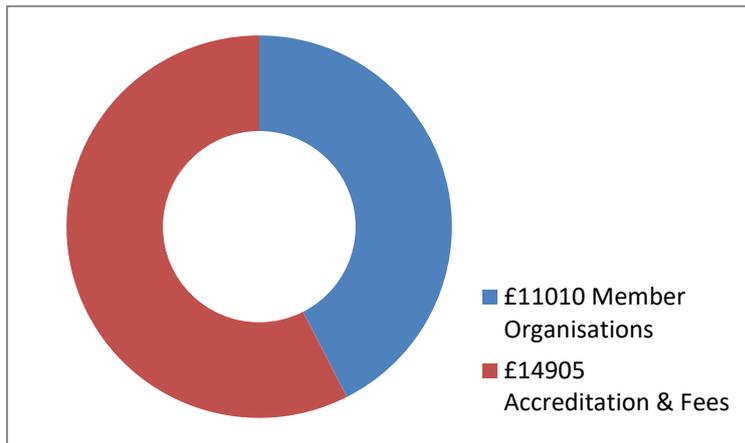
Total income for the year is £25,915 (£42,980 in 2020) which is made up of increased accreditation fees and increased contributions from Member Organisations. In 2020 additional project monies were received from HEE which is the reason for the larger income in 2020. In 2021 work continued on the HEE project with payments made to the CASE Education Officer and on the Handbook development work as well as to IPEM for administrative support. Therefore, funds of £16,536 remain restricted for the purposes of the HEE project, to ensure CASE deliverables can be completed.

Total expenditure has increased at £32,164, (£19,345 in 2020), this includes HEE project payments of £10,546. The remaining expenditure of £21,628 is on a par with 2020 due to the continuing impact of COVID reducing face-to-face meetings and training costs. The expenditure on administrative costs is as per the contract.

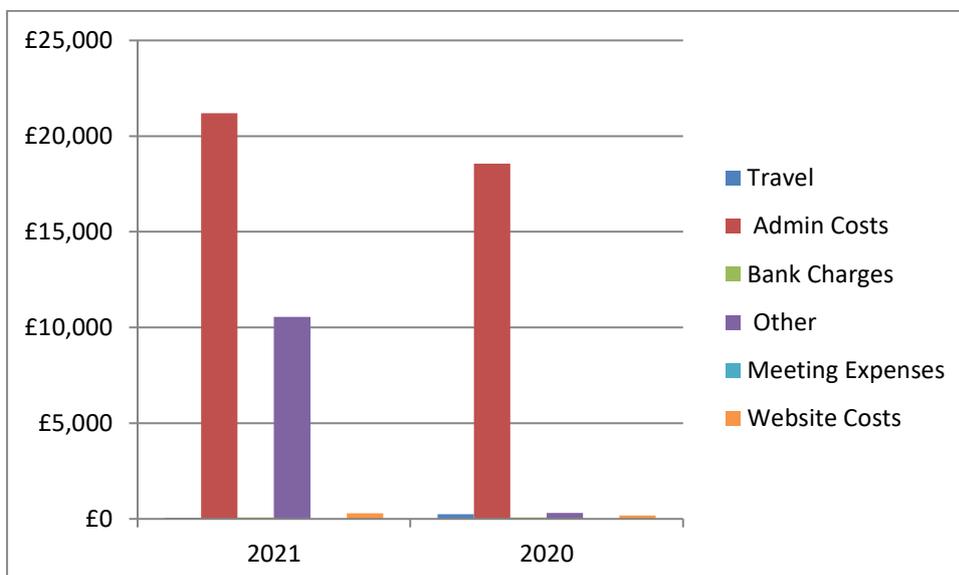
This has led to a deficit for the year of £6,249 (surplus of £23,635 in 2020).

The Balance Sheet shows reserves decreasing to £31,507.

CASE Income 2021



CASE Expenditure 2021



Looking Forward

Plans for 2021-22 include:

- Secure funding to keep the Education Officer role
- Continue work on the revision of the CASE Compendium to align with the new processes and policies
- Publish the statements and recommendations for good practice within MSK courses
- Publish a position statement on *Independent Scanning Prior to Award Ratification*
- Introduce the 'Clinical Advisor' role into the accreditor team
- Review a number of undergraduate courses with the aim to accredit the first BSc in medical ultrasound
- Develop a 'light-touch' approach to re-accreditations (meeting strict criteria only) to ease the backlog caused by the Covid-19 pandemic
- Introduce debrief meetings into the accreditation process to enable closer working between accreditors and Committee members and to ensure parity of conditions and recommendations across all courses
- Introduce an APMR process for Focus Courses and DE/BSc courses
- Deliver open 'drop-in' sessions for Accreditors to attend alongside Committee members to discuss issues
- Deliver specific training aimed at new accreditors and those interested in becoming an accreditor
- Continue engagement with other organisations in the work of CASE and encourage new members to join the Consortium.



CASE Accredited Courses 2020-2021

MSc Programmes

AECC/University of Bournemouth	MSc Medical Ultrasound
Birmingham City University	MSc Medical Ultrasound
City, University of London	MSc Medical Ultrasound
Glasgow Caledonian University	MSc Medical Ultrasound
King's College London	MSc Medical Ultrasound/ MSc Vascular Ultrasound
Sheffield Hallam University	MSc Medical Ultrasound
Teesside University	MSc Medical Ultrasound
University College, Dublin	MSc Ultrasound
University of Cumbria	MSc Medical Imaging (Ultrasound)
University of Derby	MSc Medical Ultrasound
University of Essex	MSc Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging
University of Hertfordshire	MSc Medical Imaging & Radiations Sciences (Diagnostic Ultrasound)
University of Leeds	MSc Diagnostic Imaging
University of Salford	MSc Ultrasound Imaging
University of the West of England	MSc Medical Ultrasound
University of Ulster	MSc Advancing Practice in Medical Ultrasound

Postgraduate Certificate

Brunel University/The Ultrasound Site	PgC Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
Canterbury Christ Church University	PgC Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
University of East London	PgC Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

Focused Courses

AECC/Bournemouth University	Basic Gynaecology & Early Pregnancy Ultrasound
	Second Trimester Pregnancy Dating & Placenta Position
	Podiatry Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
Birmingham City University	Transabdominal First Trimester Scanning
	Early Pregnancy Ultrasound
	Transvaginal Ultrasound for Infertility
Glasgow Caledonian University	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
Public Health England	Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
University College Dublin	Graduate Certificate Fertility Ultrasound

CASE Committee 2020-2021

Chair:	Dr Heather Venables	BMUS		
Vice-Chair:	Gareth Bolton	BMUS		
Members:	Simon Richards	BMUS	Vincent Pelling	IPEM
	Dr Mike Smith	CSP	Gill Dolbear	SCoR
	Stuart Wildman	CSP	Gill Harrison	SCoR
	Dr Lisa Newcombe	COP	Jane Arezina	SCoR
	Jai Saxelby	COP	Joanne Walker	SVT
	Dr Adam Lovick	IPEM	Mary-Ellen Williams	SVT
	Crispian Oates	IPEM	Tracey Gall	SVT

CASE Accreditors 2020-2021 (in addition to the Committee Members listed above)

Thank you to all our accreditors for volunteering their time in support of CASE

Mike Bryant	East Lancashire Hospital Trust
Dr Mhairi Brandon	Glasgow Royal Infirmary
Peter Cantin	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Gillian Coleman	University of Derby
Michelle Davies	Morrison Hospital, Swansea
Dr Diane Dickson	Glasgow Caledonian University
Jane Dixon	Independent Consultant Physiotherapist
Theresa Fail	Health Education West Midlands
Elaine Gardiner	Glasgow Caledonian University
Sue Halson-Brown	Kings College London
Dr Nasir Hameed	University of Central Lancashire
Allison Harris	City, University of London
Dr Bob Jarman	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead
Gerry Johnson	University of Salford
Alison McBride	University of South Wales
Dr Pauline Mitchell	Sheffield Hallam University
Dr David Oxborough	Liverpool John Moores University
Lorelei Waring	University of Cumbria
Catherine Williams	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Rachel Salvage	Hull & East Yorkshire NHS Hospital Trust



Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education

CASE March 2022

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