

7th January 2022

Members of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland

Statement on sexual harassment

Dear Member,

In response to "Sexual assault in surgery: a painful truth" by Simon Fleming and Rebecca Fisher (*September 2021 Bulletin*) and the subsequent testimonials that have followed on Twitter since it was published.

The Vascular Society is clear that sexual harassment and assault have absolutely no place in surgery and surgical training.

We offer our support to any individual that has ever been subjected to such unacceptable and appalling behaviour. As a Society we are committed to working to change the culture within healthcare; your workplace must be a safe place for you to speak up and to be certain that you will be listened to with no fear of any effect on your career or training - this will *be the first step in ensuring that those who are responsible for such abhorrent behaviour are held to account.*

We are happy for you to contact us direct, our contact details are below:

Rachel Bell, Vice President VSGBI
rachel.bell24@nhs.net

Ciaran McDonnell, Chair Workforce Committee VSGBI
cmcdonnell@mater.ie

Ginny Bowbrick, Chair of SAC
ginny.bowbrick@nhs.net

Jonathan Boyle, President VSGBI
president@vascularsociety.org.uk

Alternatively, RCEng do offer support to our colleagues, they have a confidential helpline where **confidential advice is available 24/7**, telephone 0800 028 0199.

Details of other support they provide can be found by visiting their website direct.
<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/careers-in-surgery/wellbeing/>

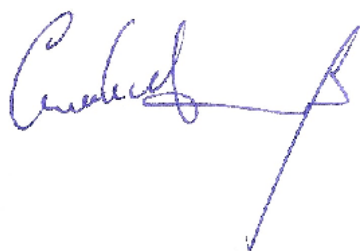
Best wishes



Miss Rachel Bell
Vice President VSGBI



Ms Ginny Bowbrick
Chair Vascular SAC



Prof Ciaran McDonnell
Chair Workforce Committee VSGBI



Mr Jonathan Boyle
President VSGBI