



3rd May 2025

Statement in response to The Times “Skeleton Staff” article

The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) are appalled and disappointed to see the published article in The Times, by a journalist in relation to “Skeleton Staff” which explicitly perpetuates **outdated, sexist and transphobic stereotypes** within orthopaedic surgery. Such narratives are *not only* directly discriminatory towards women, but are also factually *incorrect*.

Women in surgery continue to face significant pressures and are often not treated as equals in the workplace. Damaging journalism risks undermining ongoing efforts and represents a step backwards in the progress made toward improving representation, inclusivity, and public perception.

We stand in full solidarity with our colleagues at BOA, BOTA and the RCS England Women in Surgery (WinS) Forum in challenging these harmful stereotypes. ASiT remains committed to the surgical community, fostering an inclusive, supportive training environment in which everyone, regardless of gender or physical appearance, is welcomed and valued.

Surgery is a career for all. Discrimination has no place in our profession, nor in the society we serve.

Yours sincerely,
Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT)