



# Migration to Surpass interview with: The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

## Interview Transcript & Profiles

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# Introduction

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The following is a transcript of an interview with representatives of the project team from RCPCH conducted in 2015 regarding their project to move from paper based testing to onscreen testing with BTL's Test Centre Network.

**All the views expressed by the interviewees are their own.**

## Video Links

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Interview: <https://youtu.be/NXu24iL2c68>

## Transcript

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The following transcript has been recorded in order of interviewees.

### Dr Will Carroll

So the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health is one of the big Royal Colleges, and our role is to ensure that doctors get the training and education they need to be good children's doctors. So what would I say to other Royal Colleges, indeed, people who are considering Surpass as a product? It's the future. It's what's going to provide a better exam for your candidates. It's going to be more real world. You're going to have an exam that replicates what we're trying to test. What Surpass provides us is that intuitive authorship experience. It allows people to interact with it in a way that they understand before they even use the product for the first time. They know that by clicking on this box, you're going to get the following output. We're in a moment in time now where the expectation of anything that's delivered is that it will offer an intuitive experience for the user.

### Romana Moss

Previously candidates had to mark a multiple choice card with their answers on, and often you would see by looking at the script, a candidate had marked on the wrong row an answer, and then all subsequent answers would be incorrect and there's nothing we can really do because they're the candidate's answers. Whereas in Surpass, it's very clear for the candidates to see which answers they've given to which questions, they're able to flag and return to questions that they want to consider again before they submit their final answers, and also we sent out a feedback form to all our candidates who sat our pilot exam and 70% of those candidates actually preferred the exam delivered in Surpass and SecureClient rather than the previous written format.

### Dr Will Carroll

Image quality is something that's really important to our candidates, because all of us have different abilities to see things and we're used to, in a clinical context, being able to blow up and make images bigger, and then make the smaller, particularly with things like x-rays. We want to make the exam as

high-fidelity as possible, as alike to the real world as possible. A lot of time and effort was taken to improve that user experience. In the end, we've got something now that works that the candidates like and enjoy.

## Romana Moss

I think that the strategic possibilities that Surpass brings us in terms of enhanced feedback to candidates, and looking at more data and the educational importance of some of the data we can now get, such as the amount of time that candidates spend on individual questions, the amount of time they spend on the exam overall, can only help us deliver a better, enriched exam to candidates.

## Dr Will Carroll

With the support of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health exams team, this has been a project that has blossomed, and we've finally got to the point where we're delivering it. We're delivering an exam that not only looks better but feels better, and is working well for the candidates, but also working for us as an organisation. Fundamentally, examinations are the cornerstone of everything for us as doctors. Assessment drives learning, and getting the assessment right, that we get the doctors that children need going forwards. BTL have been partners in that with us; it's a great journey that we're going on. We're improving something that's already really good, something that is recognised globally as being a world quality exam, and we're making it better. And the outcome from that is better outcomes for children. If that doesn't get us out of bed in the morning, then nothing will.

## About the interviewees

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**Romana Moss** – Computer Based Training Project Manager, RCPCH

<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/romana-moss/19/3a6/611>

**Dr Will Carroll** – Chair for Theory Examinations, RCPCH

<https://www.linkedin.com/pub/will-carroll/25/308/56b>

## About RCPCH

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The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health are responsible for training and examining paediatricians in the UK. The College has over 16,000 members in the UK and internationally, and sets standards for professional and postgraduate medical education. In 2012 RCPCH began a project to transfer their existing paper-based examination process into an entirely computer-based one. Seven computer-based testing suppliers bid for the tender but the project board were unanimous in initially shortlisting 3 companies before selecting Surpass.

On selection of Surpass Romana Moss, Computer Based Testing Project Manager stated:

“A key factor in our selection of Surpass was how clean and simple the authoring environment is. Our Clinicians, who produce our question items, do not have time to learn a complex IT process, but we knew we could just give them access to the tool and they would have no problems creating questions.”

**Example Assessments:** [www.rcpch.ac.uk/theoryexams/samplepapers](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/theoryexams/samplepapers)

**Statistics:** Contract since 2014.

**Website:** <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk>