**Introduction:** The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has presented unforeseen threats and stresses to healthcare systems around the world, most notably in the ability to provide critical care.

**Aim:** To assess surgical NCHD experience in providing critical care and working in an intensive care environment.

**Method:** An electronic survey was distributed amongst surgical trainees and then amongst individual surgical departments. Ten questions were included in the survey assessing the NCHD's experience with aspects of critical care.

**Results:** 39 respondents including 16 specialist registrars, 3 senior registrars, 11 registrars and 9 senior house officers. 18% of respondents had previous experience in anaesthetics or intensive care. 23% self-reported being competent in performing endotracheal intubation. 15% self-reported being competent in the use of CPAP and BiPaP, 5% did not know what these were. 20% self-reported being competent in placing central and arterial lines. 15% self-reported being competent in starting and adjusting inotropes/vasopressors. 49% reported completing a CCRISP or BASIC course. 85% felt that a rotation in anaesthesia should be a routine part of surgical training.

**Conclusions:** Whilst there is critical care experience amongst the surgical NCHD cohort there remains room for further development.

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