To note

President’s Business

New Council members

1. I am pleased to welcome Dr Jennifer Colman as the newly-elected member of Council for England.

2. I am pleased to welcome the following newly-nominated members of Council:
   
   Mrs Mary Clark-Glass
   
   Mr Roland Doven

Appointments

3. I am pleased to announce the following appointments involving Council members:
   
   a. Professor Ian Cameron has been appointed as a member of the Commission for Health Improvement.
   
   b. Former member Dame Deirdre Hine has been appointed Chair of the Commission for Health Improvement.

Honours

4. I have great pleasure in announcing that in the New Year’s Honours List:
   
   a. Professor George Alberti was awarded a knighthood.
   
   b. Former member Dr Beulah Bewley was awarded the DBE.
   
   c. Former member Sir Leslie Turnberg became a life peer.
5. Professor Sir Denis Pereira Gray has received the Harben Gold Medal from the Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

**Organisations and institutions**

*General medical*

6. Since November 1999, I have:

Been involved in various meetings with external stakeholders on the consultations about revalidation;

Met Dr Henrietta Campbell and Dr Ian Carson, to discuss revalidation in Northern Ireland;

Met Dr Jenny Simpson, of the British Association of Medical Managers, about the role of medical directors in revalidation;

Met Professor Mike Pringle, Dr Brian Keighley, and Professor Tim Van Zwanenberg to discuss revalidation for GPs;

Attended BMA Council in December 1999 and May 2000, the second time to discuss the continuing modernisation of the GMC, progress on revalidation, and moves to deal with the backlog of conduct cases;

Visited the Clare Park Farnham BUPA Hospital in Surrey to learn more about quality systems in the private sector, accompanied by Mr Alexander Evans;

Chaired the morning session of a joint UKCC-GMC Conference on ‘Implementing Standards, Working Together’;

Met Dr Richard Horton, of the Lancet, on quality improvement and error in medicine;

Met Dr Richard Smith, of the BMJ, on developments in medical regulation;

Met Ms Alison Norman and Ms Sue Norman of the UKCC, to discuss improving GMC-UKCC links;

Met Dr Angela Coulter, from the Picker Institute Europe, to discuss public involvement in health care;

Met Professor Kenzo Kiikuni, from Japan, to discuss comparative international approaches to professional standard-setting.
Royal Colleges and Faculties

7. Since November 1999 I have met:

The Secretary of State for Health, together with the Nine Medical Chairmen, to discuss matters of mutual interest, in March 2000;

The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists, accompanied by Mr Douglas Gentleman, Ms Sue Leggate, Mr Antony Townsend and Mr David Skinner, to discuss revalidation;

The Royal Colleges Patients' Representatives Liaison Group, on two occasions, to discuss progress on professional standards, postgraduate training, and standards of teaching;

Professor Sir George Alberti, President of the Royal College of Physicians of England, to discuss progress on revalidation;

Lord Patel, Chairman of the Specialist Training Authority, on ensuring consistency in standards of training and on revalidation for specialists.

Medical schools

8. I have continued my informal series of visits to medical schools, which focus on the importance of implementing the principles of Good Medical Practice in basic medical education and the PRHO year. The discussions have covered the role of University teachers, and the linkage with clinical governance. Consequently the people involved have come from the Universities, local NHS Trusts and Health Authorities from the NHS region, and from patient organisations.

Visit to the University of Nottingham Medical School

9. On 16-17 November 1999 I visited Nottingham University Medical School, accompanied by Mr Alexander Evans. This helpful visit gave us the opportunity to discuss matters of interest with Professor Peter Rubin, the Dean of Medicine, other academic staff and medical students; NHS consultants and NHS Trust management; the representatives of patient organisations and non-executive directors of Trusts; and the regional postgraduate Dean and his colleagues, and pre-registration house officers. We were made very welcome by all the doctors, managers and students we met.

Visit to the University of Bristol Medical School

10. On 1 February 2000 I visited the University of Bristol Medical School, where I was made welcome by the Dean, Professor David Mumford, and other senior members of the University. I held meetings with medical students, pre-registration house officers, local NHS Trust chairmen and managers, and the regional postgraduate Dean and his colleagues.
Visit to Queen’s University Belfast Medical School

11. With Mr Finlay Scott I visited Queen’s University Belfast Medical School, where we were welcomed by the Dean, Professor Bob Stout, and met faculty members and students, NHS consultants and managers; the representatives of patient organisations and non-executive directors of Trusts; the regional postgraduate Dean and his colleagues, and pre-registration house officers.

Visit to the University of Birmingham Medical School

12. I spent two days visiting the University of Birmingham Medical School, accompanied by Mr Finlay Scott and Mr Alexander Evans. We were made extremely welcome by the Dean, Professor William Doe, and met faculty members and students, the regional postgraduate dean and his colleagues, pre-registration house officers, local NHS consultants and managers, and representatives of patient organisations. We also visited a local GP teaching practice to see for ourselves how medical students gained experience of medicine in the community.

University of Cambridge Graduation Ceremony

13. On 22 January 2000 I attended the University of Cambridge on graduation day. After graduation there was a ceremony at Addenbrook Hospital to welcome the new graduates into the profession. They gave a written and public pledge to abide by Duties of a Doctor. The initiative for this came from the medical students themselves and was clearly appreciated by them, their parents and families.

Student visit to the GMC

14. On 18 November 1999 I took part in a visit by a group of 22 medical students to the GMC. Building on a previous visit, this open day was aimed at showing the GMC’s work to students from different medical schools. Professor Jim Drife was host for the day. There was lively discussion between the students and selected GMC staff members. The visit offered a helpful opportunity to hear the concerns of current medical students, and what they think should be on the GMC agenda. There will be another open day for medical students in November 2000.

Department of Health / NHS

15. I have met:

The Right Hon Alan Milburn MP, Secretary of State for Health, to discuss the continuing modernisation of the GMC, in February and May 2000;

Mr John Denham MP, Minister of State, to discuss revalidation;

Professor Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer for England, on revalidation and other matters;

Sir Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, on workforce planning and other matters;
Sir William Wells, to discuss matters of mutual interest;

Dame Deirdre Hine, to discuss co-operation between the GMC and the Commission for Health Improvement;

Lord Haskins, chairman of the Cabinet Office Better Regulation Task Force, on professionally-led regulation.

I have attended:

Two meetings of the Better Regulation Task Force at the Cabinet Office, to discuss a modern framework for professionally-led regulation;

A meeting of the GMC-NHSE Overarching Group, to discuss initiatives and to co-ordinate improvements in the PRHO year.

Parliament

16. I am grateful to Professor Graeme Catto, Ms Sue Leggate and Mr Finlay Scott for appearing before the Health Select Committee at a special hearing on the GMC on 2 March 2000.

17. I met with Mr David Hinchliffe, chairman of the Health Select Committee. We discussed medical regulation, the GMC, the governance of the NHS, and other matters. An outcome is to be an informal meeting, at the GMC, between members of the Health Select Committee and members of the GMC.

Devolution

18. As a result of the enormous changes following devolution, I have set out to visit Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff to begin establishing new relationships between devolved government and a devolved NHS, and the GMC.

Visit to Scotland

On 7 December 1999 I visited Edinburgh to meet with Ms Susan Deacon MSP, Minister of Health in Scotland, and her officials to hear about the future development of health care in Scotland and to discuss future relationships with the GMC. I met Sir David Carter, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, and Lord Patel, Chairman of the Clinical Standards Board, and officials on revalidation and clinical governance.

Visit to Northern Ireland

On 17-18 February 2000 I visited Belfast, accompanied by Mr Finlay Scott, to discuss with Dr Henrietta Campbell, the Chief Medical Officer of Northern Ireland, the performance of doctors and improving links with the GMC. I spoke at a major meeting on clinical governance organised by the Eastern Health Board. In addition I visited Queen’s University Belfast Medical School, which is reported separately. I spoke at a very full meeting of the Ulster Medical Society at Belfast City Hospital.
Visit to Wales

On 24-25 February 2000 I visited Cardiff to meet with Welsh Ministers, officials and doctors, on how devolution will change the working relationship between Wales and the GMC. My research assistant, Mr Alexander Evans, accompanied me. We were made very welcome by the Chief Medical Officer for Wales, Dr Ruth Hall, and Dr Gladys Tinker, who kindly organised the two days. I had some excellent discussions with Ms Jane Hutt MWA, Assembly Secretary for Health and Social Services, in which we talked about quality improvement and changing the culture of medicine. After some useful discussions with the CMO and officials on revalidation and establishing links between the Welsh Assembly and the GMC, I then spoke on revalidation to a group of medical directors, consultants and GPs. Finally I visited the Prince Charles hospital and Morlais Medical Practice.

Enquiries

19. I took part in the Bristol Phase II seminar on culture, held at the Institute of Civil Engineers on 16 February 2000, and I am grateful to Professor Peter Rubin and Ms Sue Leggate for representing us at the Inquiry seminar on 7 March 2000 on People: Education, Training, Development and Governance in the NHS.

Other organisations

20. I met:

Ms Naaz Coker, from the King’s Fund, on racial discrimination;

Mr Saad Shakir, Director Drug Safety Research Unit, on confidentiality;

Dr Eileen Rubery, of the University of Cambridge, to discuss professional culture;

The Nuffield Trust Change Management Group, to talk about the continuing modernisation of the UKCC;

Lord Grabiner and Lord Winston, on the development of medical regulation and its legal framework;

Ms Joyce Struthers, Mr Michael Downing, and Ms Donna Covey from the Association of Community Health Councils of England and Wales (ACHEW), to discuss lay involvement in professional regulation.

Press interviews

21. I gave the following media interviews:

Mr John Weaver, of BMA News Review;

Dr Richard Horton, Editor of The Lancet;
Ms Maureen Rice, of *The Observer*;

Ms Paula Carter, of *Granada Media*;

Mr Gerard Panting, of the *Medical Channel*.

**Lectures and presentations**

22. I have continued to explain and discuss the role of the GMC and the issues on our agenda, with an increasing emphasis on the modernisation of the GMC and revalidation.

I gave the Harben Lecture at the Royal Institute of Public Health on 11 November 1999, called *The Performance of Doctors: Quality, Accountability and the Public Interest*;

I spoke at an NHS Confederation Conference in Nottingham on *Performance, Revalidation, Professional Accountability and the Responsibility of the Professions*;

I gave the annual Marsden Lecture at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead on 18 November 1999, titled *The Performance of Doctors: Personal and Institutional Responsibilities*;

I delivered the Zachary Cope lecture in Newcastle on 28 April 2000, *Professionalism in the Medical Profession*, as part of the 200 year celebration of the Royal College of Surgeons of London;

I chaired part of a BMJ Conference on *Medicine in an Ageing Society*;

I spoke on revalidation to doctors in Cardiff;

I spoke to GPs in Birmingham on professionalism;

At the Health and Community Care Research Unit in Liverpool I spoke on revalidation;

I spoke on *The New Professionalism in Medicine* at the conference on Clinical Excellence '99 in Harrogate, organised by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence;

I spoke on the duties of doctors at a BMJ conference on whistle-blowing in December 1999;

I spoke to a group of GPs in Northumbria, explaining *Why I believe in revalidation*;

At a meeting of the BMA Oxford Division I gave a talk on revalidation;

I spoke to a group of doctors at Halton General Hospital, Runcorn, Cheshire;
In Boughton, Cheshire, I gave a talk to GPs on *The Practice of Medicine in a Changing World*;

I spoke to doctors at Dryburn Medical Centre in Durham, on changes in medicine;

I spoke on *Doctors and their Accountability* at Preston Postgraduate Medical Centre;

I gave a lecture on *Medicine: Today and Tomorrow* to the Ulster Medical Society in Belfast;

I took part in Ottawa in Africa, the ninth International Conference on Medical Assessment, which was held in Cape Town where I chaired the session on revalidation / reaccreditation and gave one of the plenary addresses. The GMC’s trend-setting work on professional standards and in modernising medical education was commented on positively by many of the delegates present.

I spoke at an ASME workshop at the Royal College of Pathologists, on *Professional Conscience - the foundation of good practice*;

At an NHS Executive meeting in Trent I spoke to Trust and Health Authority chairmen on *The Future of the GMC and Revalidation*;

In Oxford I spoke on revalidation at a BMJ/World Bank conference on Learning from the NHS;

I spoke on revalidation at a British Association of Medical Managers conference in London;

I gave a talk on revalidation and self-regulation to the South Bedfordshire Division of the BMA.

**Social occasions**

23. I represented the GMC at the following:

A reception at the Royal College of Surgeons;

A BMJ annual cocktail party;

A reception to launch the Millennium Festival of Medicine;

The Annual Dinner of the British Medical Association, with my wife;

The winter dinner of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland;

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Annual Dinner, with my wife;

A reception to mark the launch of Devolution and Health at the Nuffield Trust;

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry annual dinner.
Publications

24. There has been one in the last six months:

‘Medical Regulation – Modernisation Continues’ in Consumer Policy Review (Mar/April 2000)