

24 November 2014

GMC/MPTS Liaison Group

**General
Medical
Council**

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To note

Minutes of the meeting on 11 February 2014

Members present

Peter Rubin, Chair

Niall Dickson

David Pearl

Howard Matthews

Others present

Patricia Morrissey, Group Secretary

Judith Worthington, MPTS Advisory
Committee member

Chair's business

- 1 Apologies for absence were noted from Paul Buckley, who had taken over as executive lead for the Group, Anthony Omo and Neil Roberts.

Minutes of the meeting on 11 November 2013

- 2 The Group approved the minutes of the meeting on 11 November 2013 as a true record.

Matters arising

- 3 The Group noted that the research to be commissioned on Interim Orders Panel (IOP) determinations had not been included within the 2014 research programme. The Group agreed that efforts should be taken to expedite the research and that it should not be delayed until 2015. Clarification was sought regarding the budget for the work and it was confirmed that the GMC would provide the budget for the research.
- 4 In order to provide further assurance on the quality of IOP determinations and building on the work already undertaken by the MPTS Quality Assurance Group, the Group agreed that an audit of IOP decisions would be undertaken by an external provider. The MPTS would select the external provider and the GMC would provide the necessary budget.

Report of the Chair of the MPTS

- 5 The Group considered the draft report of the Chair of the MPTS, which would be discussed by Council at its meeting on 25 February 2014.
- 6 The Group agreed one amendment to paragraph 21 which would now read: *In 2013 the MPTS started and completed 222 FTP Panel hearings, 113 review hearings and there were five hearings that dealt both with review and new allegations.*

MPTS Risk Register

- 7 The Group considered the MPTS Risk Register and noted changes to the register made since the Group's last meeting.
- 8 The Group noted that:
 - a It was helpful to have a separate risk specifically addressing MPTS financial resources as this supplemented the budget information already detailed under risk one – *Ensure we take appropriate and timely action when a doctor's fitness to practise is questioned.*

- b The audit of IOP determinations would be added as another mitigating action under risk two – *Ensure the reputation of the MPTS is established and enhanced*. The residual risk after mitigating action would retain its amber status given the on-going media interest in our work and in healthcare more generally.

Law Commissions' Review

9 The Group received an update on the Law Commissions' review and the draft Bill.

10 The Group noted that:

- a The draft Bill was expected to be published on 31 March 2014 but it seemed unlikely that the Bill would be taken through the 2014 parliamentary session. If the Bill was delayed until 2015, pre-legislative scrutiny of the draft Bill would commence in 2014 and would provide us with much more of an opportunity to influence the final legislation. Given that the S60 Order had been halted on the basis that the Bill would include measures to achieve the same effect, we would seek to revert back to the S60 Order to secure the adjudication changes required, including those related to the MPTS. However, even if there was agreement on reverting to the S60 Order, the timetable in the run up to the election would continue to pose a challenge.
- b The MPTS was already making efforts to modernise its hearing service notwithstanding the changes that required legislative action. Improvements to case management were being developed and a Case Management Group had been established to facilitate change in this area.
- c While we expect the Bill to reflect the adjudication changes required, there was as yet no clarity around the actual contents of the Bill.

Any other business

11 The Chair raised the matter of the frequency of the Group's meetings. The Group agreed that, in light of the regular operational contact between GMC and MPTS colleagues, and the lack of issues escalated for resolution, the frequency of its meetings should be reduced from quarterly to biannual meetings. An additional meeting could be called, if required, in line with the Group's statement of purpose.

Strategic and policy issues

12 There were no strategic or policy issues raised.

Operational issues

13 There were no operational issues raised.

Communication and engagement

14 There were no communication and engagement matters to report.

Confirmed:

Professor Sir Peter Rubin, Chair

Approved on circulation