

Patient Safety Commissioner consultation response

August 2021

The GMC is an independent organisation that helps to protect patients and improve medical education and practice across the UK.

- We decide which doctors are qualified to work here and we oversee UK medical education and training.
- We set the standards that doctors need to follow, and make sure that they continue to meet these standards throughout their careers.
- We take action to prevent a doctor from putting the safety of patients, or the public's confidence in doctors, at risk.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation. While most of the questions posed are not matters for us to comment on, our response outlines some general observations we have in relation to Question 8.

We anticipate that, through the course of its work, the Commissioner may receive evidence which highlights a particular concern with the delivery of care that reflects an underlying systemic issue or may suggest impaired fitness to practise on the part of a health and social care professional. In such cases, and for the purpose of public protection, it will be essential to ensure that such information is disclosed in a timely manner to the relevant regulatory body to enable it to investigate these concerns further, where appropriate to do so. Equally, during the course of their investigations, regulators may in turn identify thematic issues that might be helpful to the Commissioner.

We would welcome assurance that the legislation surrounding the operation of the Patient Safety Commissioner role facilitates the exchange of such information between PSC office and the relevant regulators, and clarification of the arrangements that will be needed to support this.

We would, of course, be happy to continue to work with the Government and/or the Commissioner to consider this.