

Principles that apply to Registration Appeals Panel decisions

Introduction

- 1** All doctors who practise medicine in the UK must be registered with us and hold a licence to practise. It is important that patients trust doctors and have confidence that they are competent in their field and abide by high ethical standards. Our duty is to protect this public interest by maintaining the integrity of the medical register. We do this by:
 - Ensuring that only those doctors who are suitably qualified and fit to practise can gain entry to the medical register and obtain a licence to practise.
 - Managing the revalidation process, whereby all licensed doctors are regularly required to demonstrate that they are up to date and fit to practise medicine.
- 2** This guidance aims to ensure consistency, fairness, and proportionality in our approach to making decisions in this area, and should be read in conjunction with the [principles which apply to decision-making](#) in relation to registration and revalidation.

The role of Registration Appeals Panels

- 3** A Registration Appeals Panel in considering an appeal regarding the grant of registration, including specialist and GP registration can:
 - a** dismiss the appeal
 - b** allow the appeal
 - c** replace the Assistant Registrar's decision with any other decision that could have been made by the Assistant Registrar

d refer the decision back to the Assistant Registrar and direct that they act in accordance with their instructions¹².

- 4** When a Registration Appeals Panel considers an appeal of a decision to withdraw a licence to practise or not to grant or restore a licence to practise, only outcomes a and b above apply³.
- 5** A Registration Appeals Panel considers an appeal by way of rehearing the evidence reviewed by the Assistant Registrar and considers any new evidence.

Factors to consider

- 6** Registration Appeal Panel decisions should be formulated and agreed in a way that is fair, consistent and transparent, in accordance with principles which apply to decision-making across all our registration and revalidation functions.
- 7** Registration Appeal Panels must always act in favour of patient and public safety⁴.

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¹ The registration appeals panel exercises these functions by virtue of Schedule 3A, paragraph 5(4) of The Medical Act 1983 (as amended).

² This includes referring the decision back to the Assistant Registrar to consider any new evidence provided by the applicant during the appeal hearing.

³ The registration appeals panel exercises these functions by virtue of Schedule 3B, paragraph 5 of The Medical Act 1983 (as amended).

⁴ Sections 1(1A) and 1(1B) of the Act.