To consider

The General Medical Council (Provisional Registration) (Time Limits) Regulations 2014 - update

Issue

1 This paper updates the Board on our plans to undertake a consultation on the regulations necessary for the introduction of a time limit on provisional registration.

Recommendations

2 The Strategy and Policy Board is asked to:
   
   a  Note the proposals to undertake an eight week consultation.
   
   b  Note the amended timescales for the consultation.
   
   c  Endorse the proposed approach to the consultation.
The General Medical Council (Provisional Registration) (Time Limits) Regulations 2014 - update

Issue

3 In September 2013, the Strategy and Policy Board endorsed in principle, on circulation, the draft Regulations and plans for public consultation necessary for the introduction of a time limit on provisional registration. At that time, we were awaiting comments from the Department of Health (DH) lawyers on the draft Regulations.

4 Since then the Department of Health has indicated its support for the draft Regulations and our plans to undertake a consultation.

5 This paper provides an update on the timescales for the project and on our consultation plans.

Consultation

6 Government guidance on conducting consultations sets out circumstances in which a formal consultation may not be appropriate, for example where adequate consultation has taken place at an earlier stage.

7 The guidance also states that the timeframes for consultation should be proportionate and realistic. The amount of time provided for responses should depend on the nature and impact of the proposal (for example, the diversity of the interested parties or the complexity of the issue).

8 We have previously carried out a consultation exercise and engagement with affected doctors and key interest groups in order to draft the policy proposals.

9 Taking into account the government guidance and in light of this earlier work we plan to undertake an eight week consultation on the draft regulations. The consultation will be targeted towards doctors and stakeholders affected or potentially affected by the change.

Timescales

10 We anticipate that the next steps in the project will be as follows:

a An eight-week consultation during the months of April and May 2014.

b To seek Council approval of the final Regulations at its meeting on 25 September 2014 (following collation of the consultation responses and any subsequent amendments to the Regulations).

c A targeted communications campaign to affected doctors and key interest groups to explain the transitional arrangements in Q3 2014.
d Operational implementation of the changes on 31 January 2015.
Supporting information

How this issue relates to the corporate strategy and business plan

11. This paper supports Strategic aim two of the 2014 Business Plan and 2014-17 Corporate Strategy, which states that we will help raise standards in medical education and practice.

If you have any questions about this paper please contact: Jon Billings, Assistant Director - Registration and Revalidation, jbillings@gmc-uk.org, 0207 189 5434.