

## **Protecting patients and supporting doctors: changing the way we work**

I am writing to update you on the outcome of two important recent consultations and some key aspects of our programme of work over the coming months.

### **Reform of our fitness to practise procedures and adjudication process**

We have held two major consultations this year that have proposed a number of changes to our fitness to practise process, in order to modernise and streamline the way we investigate and adjudicate cases.

The first consultation suggested that doctors should be able to accept sanctions without going to a hearing, while the second outlined our plans to simplify our hearings process and establish a new Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) to underline the independence of our adjudication panels and further separate them from our investigatory work.

The changes we proposed received strong support from patients and doctors, and we will now move forward with our plans. Our immediate next steps are to recruit the Chair of the MPTS and to create a single hearings centre in Manchester, where 70% of our hearings are already held.

You can download reports which set out the detail of both our consultations from [our website](#).

### **Moving our certification team to Manchester**

Our Council decided in July that our certification team should relocate to our office in Manchester, where most of our registration teams are based. Our Head of Certification, Tara Willmott, should by now have made contact with your administrators to provide them with more information about the move, which will take place towards the end of the year.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to ensure this service is transferred seamlessly to Manchester without any loss of service for applicants.

### **Developing new guidance for doctors**

We want to make sure our guidance remains up to date, reflects what patients want, and is relevant to doctors in their day to day practice. We are therefore consulting on new guidance for doctors on child protection issues. You can comment on the draft guidance [here](#).

This year we are also reviewing *Good Medical Practice*, our core guidance for doctors. This work is part of a wide-ranging conversation with individuals and organisations throughout the UK about what makes a good doctor. Further details can be found [here](#) or you can email [standards@gmc-uk.org](mailto:standards@gmc-uk.org).

### **Annual report**

We recently published our [Annual Report and Accounts](#). If you would like further information about any aspect of our work do let me know by return of email or through my colleague Joanna Szreder on 020 7189 5291.