

Health Professions Council
Council 12th May 2005
Publicising fitness to practise hearings

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Since July 9th 2003, publicising the results of fitness to practise hearings has been the responsibility of the Communications department. The procedure has been in place for 18 months and is working effectively in the vast majority of cases.

On the 20th November 2003, the Communications Committee approved the current procedure of publicising fitness to practise hearings. The paper was written to ensure that the rights of the public and the registrant are addressed and that the results of public hearings are made available in an open and fair manner.

Currently, we do not send press releases to national or regional press when the hearing is of a sensitive nature i.e. a health case. However releases are sent to professional bodies. We have recently received two complaints regarding publicising the case of a paramedic Linda Bailey to professional bodies.

In light of these complaints, and also in protecting the rights of registered professionals, it is proposed that press releases will not be issued in cases of a sensitive nature, including all health cases.

The decision and order will still be available on the HPC website.

A notice of hearing will still be issued to interested parties when a hearing date is set, this will contain the allegation.

Decision

The Communications Committee approved the above policy at their meeting on 28th February 2005 and recommended that Council did the same.

Background information

None

Financial implications

None

Date
2005-02-15

Ver.
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COM

Doc Type
PPR

Title
promoting HPC registration

Status
Draft
DD: None

Int. Aud.
Internal
RD: None

Date
2005-02-15

Ver.
a

Dept/Cmte
COM

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PPR

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Status
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