

**Health Professions Council
Health Committee - 7th November 2005**

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Resolutions to adopt if a practice committee (Health, Investigating or Conduct and Competence) requires to hold a meeting in private session

1. Introduction

As a public body the Health Professions Council (HPC) should, so far as possible, conduct its business in public but there will clearly be occasions when matters need to be discussed in private.

There is currently no provision made in the Rules for Practice Committees' meetings to be held in private. For all other committees this is provided for in their Standing Orders. However, the Council cannot make Standing Orders for the Practice Committees, which have the power (provided in the Rules) to regulate their own proceedings.

For example Panels of the Investigating Committee conduct 'case to answer' proceedings in private, if the Investigating Committee decides to review such cases this must in turn be carried out in a private meeting, as even if the case papers are provided in a suitably anonymised format, it will often still be possible to identify people from the profession, location or facts of the case.

2. Decision

The Committee is therefore asked to agree to the following Resolution.

Resolution

"The Committee hereby resolves that a meeting of the Committee may be held in private, where the matters being discussed relate to one or more of the following";

- (i) information relating to a registrant, former registrant or application for registration;
- (ii) information relating to an employee or office holder, former employee or applicant or any post or office;
- (iii) the terms of, or expenditure under, a tender or contract for the purchase or supply of goods or services or the acquisition or disposal of property;
- (iv) negotiations or consultation concerning labour relations between the Council and its employees;
- (v) any issue relating to legal proceedings which are being contemplated or instituted by or against the Council;

- (vi) action being taken to prevent or detect crime to prosecute offenders;
- (vii) the source of information given to the Council in confidence; or
- (viii) any other matter which, in the opinion of the President, is confidential or the public disclosure of which would prejudice the effective discharge of the Council's functions.

3. Background information

None

4. Resource implications

None

5. Financial implications

None

6. Background papers

None

7. Appendices

None

8. Date of paper

18th October 2005

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