

Fitness to Practise Forum – 24 April 2009

Existing Practice Notes – Update to Terminology

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

A number of practice notes exist to provide guidance to panels and those involved in fitness to practise proceedings. As part of the fitness to practise department work plan, the executive has undertaken a review of the existing practice notes to ensure that they reflect current regulatory practice relating to their terminology. The Forum is asked to review and consider the existing practice notes listed below:

- Case to Answer
- Consent
- Cross Examination in Sexual Cases
- Equal Treatment
- Interim Orders
- Preliminary Hearings
- Welsh Language

Decision

The forum is asked to discuss the practice notes and recommend that:

1. The Investigating Committee approve the Practice Note – **Case to Answer**
2. The Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Consent**
3. The Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice note – **Cross examination in cases of a sexual nature**
4. The Investigating, Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Equal Treatment**
5. The Investigating, Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note – **Interim Orders**
6. The Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note - **Preliminary Hearings**
7. The Investigating, Health and Conduct and Competence Committee approve the Practice Note - **Welsh Language**

Background information

All practice notes are placed on the HPC website and provided to stakeholders where required. Reference to the appropriate practice notes is provided in standard correspondence.

The governments' current proposals for reform of the constitution of HPC mean that, in future, the practice committees will solely be responsible for adjudicating individual cases and will have no strategic or policy role. If those changes are implemented then the issue of practice notes will become a responsibility for Council.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

Case to Answer
Consent
Cross Examination in Sexual Cases
Equal Treatment
Interim Orders
Preliminary Hearings
Welsh Language

Date of paper

9 April 2009