



Strictly Private & Confidential

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14 July 2008

Dear Mrs O'Brien

Dr Barton - Interim Orders Panel

As you will be aware from my previous correspondence with you the GMC Fitness to Practise Hearing previously scheduled to start in September 2008 has been postponed pending the outcome of the proposed Inquest.

The GMC therefore referred the matter to be considered by the Interim Orders Panel (IOP). Cases are referred to the Interim Orders Panel (IOP) where the doctor faces allegations of such a nature that it may be necessary for the doctor's registration to be restricted whilst the allegations are resolved, for the protection of members of the public or in the public interest or in the interests of the doctor.

As well as the protection of the public, the "public interest" includes preserving public trust in the profession and maintaining good standards of conduct and performance.

The IOP may make an order suspending a doctor's registration or imposing conditions upon a doctor's registration for a maximum period of 18 months. Alternatively, they may decide to take no action.

The IOP hearing in Dr Barton's case was heard on Friday 11 July 2008. The IOP decided to impose conditions on Dr Barton's registration. Details can be found on the internet at http://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns/hearings_and_decisions/fitness_to_practise_decisions.asp

In summary, the IOP placed a condition on Dr Barton that she 'must not prescribe diamorphine and must restrict her prescribing of diazepam in line with BNF guidance'. She must provide evidence that she has complied with this condition to the GMC. Her employers and any prospective employers will be informed of the restriction. The condition will be imposed on her registration for 18 months and will be reviewed within the next 6 months.

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If you have any further queries then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Jamsin Hall
for Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP