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**Media handling and logistics for Dr Jane Barton and [Code A] fitness to practise hearings – January 2010**

**Background:**

Dr Jane Barton's fitness to practise hearing is scheduled to reconvene between 18 and 29 January 2010. The determination on SPM and Sanction is due to be announced around 29 January.

There is a risk that this announcement will coincide with the handing down of the findings on fact for the [Code A] [Code A] hearing which is ongoing from 4 to 29 January 2010.

While these are separate hearings, there is high media interest in both and therefore the logistics planning will be undertaken jointly.

**This paper seeks to manage the risks of the two decisions happening on the same day.**

**Objective:**

- To ensure the smooth running of both hearings, the media, facilities and adjudication teams must continue to work closely to manage the risks should both announcements be made on the same day.

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## Risks and mitigation

Risks and logistics	Code A	Barton	Mitigation
<p><b>RISK:</b> Insufficient notice of hearing timings is given. This poses problems with managing relationships with journalists and pressure groups.</p>	<p>Currently findings on fact expected week commencing 25 January.</p>	<p>Currently sanction and SPM decision expected on 28 or 29 January.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Panel secretaries to provide regular and timely updates to media team and facilities.</p>
<p><b>RISK:</b> A large number of journalists attend GMC London on same day, for two separate hearings.</p>	<p>Due to room pressures Chamber Room 1 will be split into two hearings: <b>Code A</b> and one other.</p> <p>There is a possibility that half the number of seats (i.e. 20) will be available for the public and press and not everyone can be accommodated.</p>	<p>The entire hearing will be held in Hearing Room 1.</p> <p>We anticipate that all journalists and members of the public will be accommodated in the Barton hearing. However there will be no overflow space in the press room for journalists needing to work remotely (as this space will be used for journalists following the <b>Code A</b> hearing).</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Adjudication to confirm on set up for <b>Code A</b> hearing ASAP and let press team know how many seats will be available (NB seating for press and public will need to be separated with a rope divider).</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Media team to confirm how many journalists attending each hearing.</p> <p>Journalists for the <b>Code A</b> hearing use the VC in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Flr press room. Members of the public and remainder of press accommodated in the hearing room.</p> <p>To mitigate, the media team has booked meeting room 2.05 for all journalists on 29 Jan and Jackie Rowley's office all day on 28 and 29 January.</p>

<b>RISK:</b> Lack of resources to provide press blue/charge sheets and determinations.	40 hard copies of up-to-date press blue, determination and summary of findings on fact required.	40 hard copies of up-to-date press blue, determination on SPM and sanction required.	<b>ACTION:</b> Adjudication to ensure that sufficient support is available to provide amended charge sheets for all attendant parties (x 40 copies for both hearings).
<b>RISK:</b> More than one film crew wishing to film on the ground floor at a time.	Potentially 3 interested crews who may want to record live simultaneously on the ground floor (not including Barton journalists).	Potentially 3 interested crews who may want to record live simultaneously on the ground floor (not including <span style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px;">Code A</span> journalists).	<b>ACTION:</b> Facilities and media team meeting with Broadgate on Monday 11 to discuss.
<b>RISK:</b> More than one broadcaster requires use of ISDN kit simultaneously.	BBC expected to record radio broadcast.	Possibility of radio broadcast.	<b>ACTION:</b> Press team to manage radio bids, book room and set up ISDN kit.
<b>LOW RISK:</b> Possibility that two groups of protestors demonstrate outside GMC on same day.	A maximum of 20 'parents' will attend but very few confirmed. A demonstration is unlikely.	Several relatives of patients treated by Jane Barton expected to attend at least 20. Some of these individuals will be willing to voice strong opinions of the determination to the attendant press.	<b>ACTION:</b> Media team to keep all parties updated with numbers of attendees and news of any demonstrations.  <b>ACTION:</b> Andrew to liaise with Met Police if necessary and arrange security for both hearings.
<b>RISK:</b> Press and public on ground floor disrupting staff.			<b>ACTION:</b> Media team work with internal communications to

			<p>update staff and alert call centre ahead of press / public interest. Further information to be provided on Inside Info.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Media team and facilities chaperone press and public to avoid staff disruption.</p>
<p><b>RISK:</b> Staffing pressures on media team with two media officers away from press office supervising high level of interest.</p>			<p><b>ACTION:</b> Media team to arrange additional support on 'standby' to answer press office phones.</p> <p><b>Code A</b> and Stephanie McNamara to be available to assist as required.</p> <p><b>Code A</b> to answer press office phones.</p> <p>External relations colleagues to be on standby to provide additional support.</p>
<p><b>LOGISTIC:</b> Catering.</p>	<p>Refreshments required for all attendees when announcements are made.</p>	<p>Refreshments required for all attendees announcements are made.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Facilities to confirm tea, coffee and biscuits available.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Facilities to ensure that 3<sup>rd</sup> floor coffee machines are filled and kept topped-up</p>
<p><b>LOGISTIC:</b> Signage.</p>	<p>Informing press and public that recording is not</p>	<p>Informing press and public that recording is not</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> Media team to provide.</p>

	permitted in hearing room etc.	permitted in hearing room etc.	
<b>LOGISTIC:</b> Lanyards and sign in process.	Separate coloured lanyards required for press / public.	Separate coloured lanyards required for press / public.	<b>ACTION:</b> Facilities to inform media team when they require final list of attendees in order to make up lanyards.

**Recommendation**

- If the determinations for these hearings are made public on separate days, the majority of these risks do not apply.

**Contacts**

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