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Post-Council press briefing- additional material**If asked:****Dr Jane Barton- CHRE decision not to appeal**

Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the GMC said:

"This was a complicated and difficult case which has caused anguish and upset to a great many people. We understand and support the view of the CHRE that Dr Barton should have been erased from the medical register but also understand and accept the legal position in relation to an appeal."

Increase in Fitness to Practise cases:**Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the GMC, comments:**

"In recent years we have seen an increase in fitness to practise cases, and it is important that we understand the reasons behind the rise. We are keen to understand why this is happening but it is likely there is a range of complex factors behind the increase.

"The GMC is committed to ensuring that we maintain our high standards of handling Fitness to Practise cases in an efficient and timely manner. We are working to make sure the necessary resources are available and to further improve the way we handle cases to help us effectively manage the increased workload."

Q and A**What is causing this increase in Fitness to Practise cases?**

We still have more work to do to understand the cause of this increase in cases, and it is likely there is a range of complex factors behind this. We have already identified some trends - for example more cases being referred from the NHS- but more investigation is needed to understand why this is taking place. We will be considering whether we need to commission research in this area so we can identify all the key factors and plan as effectively as possible going forward.

Can you cope with this increased workload and will you still be able to meet your performance targets?

The GMC is committed to ensuring that we maintain our high standards even as our workload increases. It will be challenging to meet our ambitious performance targets, but we are working now to improve efficiency and to ensure the resources are in place to deal with the additional number of cases.

Do you think the NHS could be referring more of its doctors to the GMC before revalidation starts?

There isn't any evidence for this as far as we are aware, and we do not expect revalidation to lead to any significant increase in the number of doctors being referred to the GMC. The vast majority of doctors will have no difficulty meeting the standards for revalidation. Where there are concerns about any aspect of a doctor's practice, these should be identified early and, where possible, addressed through appraisal and relevant local clinical governance processes. The identification of, and action on, concerns should not wait until a doctor is due to be revalidated.

Is the increase due to the introduction of the Civil Standard of Proof?

No. The standard of proof only comes into play at a Fitness to Practise hearing where the facts of a case are in dispute.