

Memorandum

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**General
Medical
Council**

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

To: Stephanie McNamara**Code A**

Thorin Radford

Code A

Christine Challis

From: **Code A****Copy:** Sarah Gulbransen**Code A**

Press office team

Laura Nelson

Date: 5 January 2010**Dr Jane Barton fitness to practise hearing – reconvening 18th January 2010****Background:**

Dr Jane Barton's fitness to practise hearing is scheduled to reconvene between 18th and 29th January 2010.

The hearing adjourned following the Panel's findings of fact in August 2009. (The previous session ran between 8th June and 21st August 2009).

The fitness to practise hearing also followed an inquest into the deaths of 10 elderly patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital (GWMH) in Portsmouth. The inquest found that three of the patients had been given inappropriate medication. There has been extensive local press interest in this case, and in addition, in-depth coverage from the Independent on Sunday, which has covered every stage of the case, including the inquest and calls to action from the families of patients affected by events at GWMH; the case was featured in the newspaper's highlights of 2009 and has attracted support for Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Secretary Norman Lamb MP, who has called for a public enquiry.

Interested journalists notified of reconvening dates:

17 November 2009

Non-sitting days and reading days:

Monday 18 January is a reading day

Panel secretary:

Code A

Responsibilities:

The organisation and running of the hearing falls across 3 directorates, FPD, Communications and Registration and Resources. The tables below outline the actions and responsibilities broken down by directorate.

Other hearings/risks at this stage of the hearing:

The hearing for Code A et al has also reconvened on 4 January.

It is likely that the panel for Dr Barton's hearing will reach their determination around the same time as the panel for Code A et al hand down their determination on facts.

(Further background) An additional case to note is that, following the 2009 inquest into patient deaths at Gosport, another inquest is planned following the death of Gladys Richards. Depending on timings, there could be media interest if this coincides with part of Dr Barton's hearing.

Adjudication

Planning	Next steps
Hearing room (Room 1)	Room to be set up by Friday 15 th January
Dr Barton	Is expected to be present
Badges	To be prepared in advance (with facilities)
Room set up and witness rooms	The hearing room will be set up by 15 th January
Press blue/charge sheet	Amended charge sheets to be made available for all attendant journalists (x 30 copies)
Determination on SPM and sanction	To be made available to all in attendance as soon as it is read out

Communications

Action	Comments
Broadcast Room	TBC
Radio Room	TBC
Attendees list	Members of public to confirm
Supporter/anti-doctor liaison	AVMA/ other groups of supporters and or protestors; those whose cases the GMC is not taking forward.
Website monitoring/ news alerts	Code A will keep a watch of relevant website for news and set up Google News alerts.
Monitoring hearing	Press team will keep close eye on attendees in hearing room and monitor the hearing for any comms risks.
Signage for hearings	Press team will provide signage for rooms.

rooms (no recording devices)	
Internal comms to staff	Inside Info to be update to brief London staff
Filming	Code A will advise that press are expected to film on ground floor. Code A to advise Broadgate.
Admin	Code A to print 'old rules' background – case is PCC

Facilities

Action	Comments
Police liaison	Code A to liaise with Met police
Liaison with Broadgate	Code A to continue to liaise with Broadgate (and update re broadcast journalists filming).
Internal security	Security guards?
Hearing room set-up	Facilities to set up rooms
VC unit in press room	
VC unit in hearing	
Brief 1 st and 3 rd Floor staff on Fire Register	Adjudication to advise re housekeeping
Security passes and lanyards for press / public	Passes and lanyards will be left on reception for all parties to access rooms on 18 th January. Colour coding TBC
Room set up	Set up as usual expected – 40 seats to be divided equally between public and press.
Catering	

Security:

- ID checking and searching required (and queries to be handled by press office)

Interested parties:

AvMA

Blake Laphorn solicitors (representing four family members)

Media team responsibilities at close of hearing

Liaison with journalists – 3 rd floor	Code A
Keep track of ground floor protestors/supporters – additional press office support	TBC
Keep list of expected attendees/supporters	Code A
Field press calls	Press office team

