

15-28 January 2010

29927597

2.141

Parliament Now

Council

Regulating doctors
Ensuring good medical practice

Contents

The GMC in
Parliament

News and views

Medical education

Appointments

Future events and
party conferences

The GMC in Parliament

Out of hours care is high on the political agenda

The Conservative Party introduced a House of Commons debate on out of hours care on 27 January 2010. During the three and a half hour debate there were several mentions of the GMC and in particular our ability to test the language skills and competency of foreign doctors.

The public affairs team provided a briefing to the Conservative Party on the GMC's position on the language and skills testing of doctors. Shadow Health Minister Mark Simmonds MP quoted from our briefing during the debate, reflecting our concerns that "the current legal framework is unsatisfactory" and "the current system does not adequately safeguard patients".

The Liberal Democrats published a series of proposals for reform to the out of hours care system and the employment of overseas doctors on 27 January 2010. These called for a language and competence test for doctors from the European Economic Area (EEA) who wish to register with the GMC and for EEA regulators to immediately notify each other of fitness to practise incidents which lead to action being taken against a healthcare professional. Paul Philip recently met the Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health, Norman Lamb MP, to discuss issues relating to language testing and overseas doctors.

Liberal Democrats comment on Wakefield case

Following the announcement of the finding of fact in the GMC Fitness to Practise Panel hearing of Dr Wakefield, Dr Walker-Smith and Dr Murch, Liberal Democrat Shadow Health Secretary Norman Lamb MP commented that the impact of Dr Wakefield's conduct on public health has been "deeply damaging" and that public confidence in the vaccine must now be re-built.

Parliamentary debate on prostate cancer

A Fitness to Practise case currently being reviewed by the GMC was discussed during a House of Commons debate on the diagnosis of prostate cancer and trials of the drug Arbiraterone on 21 January 2010.

**For further
information please
contact:**

Code A

Daniel Kawczynski MP (Cons, Shrewbury and Atcham) tabled a debate to raise his constituents' diagnosis of prostate cancer. He briefly commented on the GMC's role in addressing concerns about doctors. Health Minister Mike O'Brien MP outlined the details of the case before stating that as the investigation was ongoing, no further comment could be made.

We produced a short briefing on the case for the Department of Health in advance of the debate and the Health Minister quoted from this when discussing our investigation.

EDM on Gosport Hospital

Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health Norman Lamb MP tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM) on 21 January 2010 calling for a public inquiry into the deaths of over 90 patients at Gosport Hospital between 1991-2001. The EDM also stated that questions have been raised about the robustness of inquiries into this case by the GMC, the police and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The EDM has currently received 14 signatures but it is unlikely to be debated in Parliament.

PMETB merger mentioned in Health Select Committee

During a Health Select Committee session on public expenditure on health and social services 2009, committee members questioned senior civil servants on the state of NHS finances and future expenditure commitments. Following a question on the rationalisation of arms length bodies, Richard Douglas, the Director General of Finance and Chief Operating Officer at the Department of Health, mentioned the impending merger of PMETB with the GMC.

Standards and ethics issues

Safeguarding adults boards to become mandatory

Care Minister Phil Hope MP announced that the Government will introduce new legislation to make it mandatory for all English local authorities to establish safeguarding adults boards. Adult Safeguarding Boards are developed by local authorities in cooperation with the NHS and the police and work to raise awareness and promote the welfare of

vulnerable adults by developing effective co-operation across public services.

The proposals were announced as part of the Government's response to its consultation on revising the 2000 No Secrets adults safeguarding guidance.

Overview of improvements to the death certification process

The Department of Health published an overview of the programme to improve death certification in England and Wales on 19 January 2010. This includes an outline of the revised process for death certification and detail of the necessary steps at each stage.

Regulation and health service reform

DH announces revalidation pilots

Health Secretary Andy Burnham MP announced details of 10 revalidation pilots which will provide the opportunity to test how revalidation will work in practice. The pilots will begin in January 2010 and run until March 2011 and cover doctors working in a variety of NHS healthcare settings in different regions throughout England.

The first testing of the full revalidation process will begin in late 2011/early 2012.

Welsh Assembly consults on 'Putting Things Right'

The Welsh Assembly Government launched a consultation on new regulations that they plan to introduce which aim to enable complaints about care to be resolved more simply, quickly and effectively.

The regulations are designed to improve the way that health organisations deal with people's concerns about the health service and will ensure that mistakes are corrected and lessons learned to stop them happening again. The new regulations are also designed to give health organisations tools and techniques to carry out better investigations and to help and support people who wish to raise concerns.

The consultation closes on 2 April 2010.

Medical education

Government responds to Fair Access Panel

The Government published its response to the final report from the Panel on Fair Access to the Professions and has agreed to implement the vast majority of the panel's recommendations.

Unleashing Aspiration, published on 18 January 2010, includes several recommendations for professional regulators:

- they should encourage businesses in their sector to meet best practice in relation to career changes
- regulators should embed the social mobility and fair access agenda into their strategic plans
- they should consider how to embed the fair access agenda more widely and permanently into the work and strategic planning of their professions.

The GMC is a member of the Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum which will be expanded and will advise on and implement many of the recommendations accepted by the Government in their response. It is expected to publish progress reports in March and June before reporting on current practices within the professions at the end of the year.

Appointments

DH announces two new national directors

The Department of Health announced details of the appointment of a new National Clinical Director for Dementia, Professor Alistair Burns who is the Professor of Old Age Psychiatry at the University of Manchester. Professor David Oliver, a Consultant Physician and Clinical Director at the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust, has been appointed as the new National Clinical Director for Older People.

Political change in Northern Ireland

SDLP MLA Conall McDevitt has been appointed to the Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety to replace Carmel Hanna MLA who vacated her South Belfast seat in early January.

Jonathan Bell, a former social worker, will replace Iris Robinson as DUP MLA for Strangford.

Future events and party conferences

The GMC will be attending the following:

Conservative Party Spring Conference, 27-28 February 2010

Northern Ireland party political conferences

- SDLP, Newcastle, 5-7 February 2010
- Sinn Fein, Dublin, 5-7 March 2010

Welsh party political conferences

- Welsh Liberal Democrats, Swansea, 5-7 February 2010
- Plaid Cymru, Cardiff, 19-20 February 2010
- Welsh Labour Party, Swansea, 26-28 February 2010

Scottish party political conferences

- Scottish Conservative Party, Perth, 12 February 2010
- Scottish Liberal Democrats, Perth, 5-7 March 2010
- Scottish Labour Party, Glasgow, 27 March 2010

Recess dates

- Westminster, 10-22 February 2010
- National Assembly for Wales, 15-21 February 2010
- Scottish Parliament, 15-21 February 2010

[Skip to content](#)



www.parliament.uk

You are here:

- [Parliament home page](#)
- [Parliamentary business](#)
- [Publications & records](#)
- [Business papers](#)
- [House of Commons business papers](#)
- [Early Day Motions](#)
- Early day motion 691

Early day motion 691

[Print version](#)

DEATHS AT GOSPORT HOSPITAL

- **Session:** 2009-10
- **Date tabled:** 21.01.2010
- **Primary sponsor:** [Lamb, Norman](#)
- **Sponsors:** [Corbyn, Jeremy](#) [Hunter, Mark](#) [Iddon, Brian](#) [Jones, Lynne](#) [Sanders, Adrian](#)

That this House supports the calls for a public inquiry made by the families of the more than 90 elderly patients who died in extraordinary and unexplained circumstances at Gosport War Memorial Hospital between 1990 and 2001; expresses its dismay that despite the fact that concerns were raised first in 1991, the issue still remains unresolved despite repeated investigations by the police, a highly critical report by the Commission for Health Improvement in 2002, 10 inquests and a disciplinary hearing by the General Medical Council; notes that serious questions have been raised by the families involved and in the media about the robustness of the inquiries by the police, General Medical Council and Nursing and Midwifery Council; further notes that the police refused to disclose evidence to the General Medical Council to facilitate consideration of whether steps should be taken to safeguard patients safety; calls on the Secretary of State for Health to work with the Secretary of State for Justice in convening an independent public inquiry, recognising that only a public examination with equivalent powers to the Shipman inquiry could satisfactorily consider the complex nature of the multiple deaths and satisfy the public interest in learning lessons about patient safety in such cases; believes that the establishment of an independent inquiry is consistent with the Government's commitment to putting the needs of victims and their relatives at the heart of the justice system; and further notes that the Portsmouth Coroner and relatives of the deceased have supported such a call.

Total number of signatures: 56

Supported by Withdrawn signatures

Show: [Close](#)

Supported by:
A list of all MPs that have signed and support the motion.

Withdrawn:
A list of MPs that have withdrawn their signature from the motion.

Showing 56 out of 56

<u>Name</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Constituency</u>	<u>Date Signed</u>
<u>Alexander, Danny</u>	Liberal Democrats	Inverness Nairn Badenoch and Strathspey	02.02.2010
<u>Beith, Alan</u>	Liberal Democrats	Berwick-Upon-Tweed	02.02.2010
<u>Brake, Tom</u>	Liberal Democrats	Carshalton and Wallington	02.02.2010
<u>Browne, Jeremy</u>	Liberal Democrats	Taunton	02.02.2010
<u>Bruce, Malcolm</u>	Liberal Democrats	Gordon	10.02.2010
<u>Burstow, Paul</u>	Liberal Democrats	Sutton and Cheam	29.03.2010
<u>Burt, Lorely</u>	Liberal Democrats	Solihull	08.02.2010
<u>Campbell, Menzies</u>	Liberal Democrats	North East Fife	09.02.2010
<u>Campbell, Ronnie</u>	Labour Party	Blyth Valley	27.01.2010
<u>Carmichael, Alistair</u>	Liberal Democrats	Orkney and Shetland	02.02.2010
<u>Clapham, Michael</u>	Labour Party	Barnsley West and Penistone	10.02.2010
<u>Corbyn, Jeremy</u>	Labour Party	Islington North	26.01.2010
<u>Cryer, Ann</u>	Labour Party	Keighley	26.01.2010
<u>Featherstone, Lynne</u>	Liberal Democrats	Hornsey and Wood Green	02.02.2010
<u>Foster, Don</u>	Liberal Democrats	Bath	29.01.2010
<u>Gidley, Sandra</u>	Liberal Democrats	Romsey	02.02.2010
<u>Goldsworthy, Julia</u>	Liberal Democrats	Falmouth and Camborne	22.02.2010
<u>Hancock, Mike</u>	Liberal Democrats	Portsmouth South	26.01.2010
<u>Harris, Evan</u>	Liberal Democrats	Oxford West and Abingdon	02.02.2010
<u>Harvey, Nick</u>	Liberal Democrats	North Devon	02.02.2010
<u>Heath, David</u>	Liberal Democrats	Somerton and Frome	02.02.2010
<u>Hemming, John</u>	Liberal Democrats	Birmingham Yardley	01.02.2010

10/28/2015

Early day motion 691 - DEATHS AT GOSPORT HOSPITAL - UK Parliament

<u>Holmes, Paul</u>	Liberal Democrats	Chesterfield	02.02.2010
<u>Hopkins, Kelvin</u>	Labour Party	Luton North	03.02.2010
<u>Horwood, Martin</u>	Liberal Democrats	Cheltenham	02.02.2010
<u>Howarth, David</u>	Liberal Democrats	Cambridge	22.02.2010
<u>Hughes, Simon</u>	Liberal Democrats	North Southwark and Bermondsey	02.02.2010
<u>Huhne, Chris</u>	Liberal Democrats	Eastleigh	02.02.2010
<u>Hunter, Mark</u>	Liberal Democrats	Cheadle	26.01.2010
<u>Iddon, Brian</u>	Labour Party	Bolton South East	25.01.2010
<u>Jones, Lynne</u>	Labour Party	Birmingham Selly Oak	26.01.2010
<u>Keetch, Paul</u>	Liberal Democrats	Hereford	02.02.2010
<u>Kennedy, Charles</u>	Liberal Democrats	Ross Skye and Lochaber	23.02.2010
<u>Kramer, Susan</u>	Liberal Democrats	Richmond Park	24.02.2010
<u>Lamb, Norman</u>	Liberal Democrats	North Norfolk	21.01.2010
<u>Leech, John</u>	Liberal Democrats	Manchester Withington	27.01.2010
<u>McCrea, Dr William</u>	Democratic Unionist Party	South Antrim	27.01.2010
<u>Moore, Michael</u>	Liberal Democrats	Berwickshire Roxburgh and Selkirk	02.02.2010
<u>Mulholland, Greg</u>	Liberal Democrats	Leeds North West	02.02.2010
<u>Opik, Lembit</u>	Liberal Democrats	Montgomeryshire	04.02.2010
<u>Pelling, Andrew</u>	INDEPENDENT	Croydon Central	27.01.2010
<u>Pugh, John</u>	Liberal Democrats	Southport	02.02.2010
<u>Reid, Alan</u>	Liberal Democrats	Argyll and Bute	02.02.2010
<u>Rennie, Willie</u>	Liberal Democrats	Dunfermline and West Fife	02.02.2010
<u>Russell, Bob</u>	Liberal Democrats	Colchester	01.02.2010
<u>Sanders, Adrian</u>	Liberal Democrats	Torbay	26.01.2010
<u>Simpson, Alan</u>	Labour Party	Nottingham South	26.01.2010
<u>Simpson, David</u>	Democratic Unionist Party	Upper Bann	27.01.2010
<u>Smith, Robert</u>	Liberal Democrats	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	02.02.2010
<u>Swinson, Jo</u>	Liberal Democrats	East Dunbartonshire	02.02.2010
<u>Teather, Sarah</u>	Liberal Democrats	Brent East	09.03.2010
<u>Webb, Steve</u>	Liberal Democrats	Northavon	02.02.2010
<u>Williams, Roger</u>	Liberal Democrats	Brecon and Radnorshire	02.02.2010
<u>Williams, Stephen</u>	Liberal Democrats	Bristol West	02.02.2010

10/28/2015

Early day motion 691 - DEATHS AT GOSPORT HOSPITAL - UK Parliament

<u>Willis, Phil</u>	Liberal Democrats	Harrogate and Knaresborough	22.02.2010
<u>Willott, Jenny</u>	Liberal Democrats	Cardiff Central	02.02.2010