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11 May 2009

Sir Peter Viggers MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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### **Fitness to Practise hearing of Dr Jane Ann Barton**

Further to your written question on Gosport War Memorial Hospital (264625), I am writing to inform you of a future Fitness to Practise hearing of Dr Jane Barton. Dr Barton has already been informed of this hearing and the details set out below are in the public domain.

The panel will consider allegations against Jane Ann Barton, a medical practitioner, relating to her treatment of 12 patients whilst working as a clinical assistant in elderly medicine at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Hampshire between January 1996 and November 1999.

It is alleged that Dr Barton prescribed drugs, including Diamorphine and Midazolam, to be administered to the patients and that in each instance the dose range was too wide and the prescriptions created situations whereby drugs could be administered which were excessive to the patients' needs. It is further alleged that Dr Barton's actions in prescribing the drugs were inappropriate, potentially hazardous and not in the patients' best interests.

The Panel will also inquire into allegations that, in respect of four patients, the lowest doses or lowest commencing doses of Diamorphine and Midazolam that Dr Barton prescribed were too high. It is further alleged that on four separate occasions Dr Barton did not obtain the advice of a colleague when a patient's condition deteriorated.

The Panel will further inquire into allegations that Dr Barton failed to appropriately assess the condition of the 12 patients before prescribing opiates and that she did not keep clear, accurate and contemporaneous notes in relation to the patients' care.

The hearing will be held in public from 8 June until 21 August 2009 at the GMC's London office at Regent's Place, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3JN. The panel may decide to exclude the public where they consider that the circumstances of the case outweigh the public interest in holding the hearing in public.

Fitness to Practise Panel hearings are the final stage of our procedures following a complaint about a doctor. Once the panel has heard the evidence it will decide whether the

doctor's fitness to practise is impaired and, if so, if any action should be taken against a doctor's registration.

We will keep you updated and notify you of the panel's decision once the hearing has reached its conclusion. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Laura Nelson  
Public Affairs Manager

**Code A**