in reply please quote PCH/2000/2047

8 October 2004

Special Delivery

Mr. Ian Piper
Chief Executive
Fareham & Gosport PCT
Unit 180 Fareham Reach
166 Fareham Road
Gosport
Hampshire
PO13 0FH

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

Protecting patients, guiding doctors

Dear Mr Piper

Dr Jane Barton

You will have by now received a letter from my colleagues in the Interim Orders Committee team informing you that on 7 October 2004 the Interim Orders Committee determined that it should not make an order restricting Dr Barton's registration.

In making its decision the Committee noted Dr Barton's assertion that she has made a voluntary undertaking with Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust regarding the prescribing of opiates and benzodiazepines.

I would be grateful if you would confirm whether there is currently in place any undertaking from Dr Barton, voluntary or otherwise, in respect of any aspect of her medical practise. I should also be grateful if you would confirm the date that any such undertaking came into effect, whether there is an expiry or renewal date for any such undertaking, whether there are any procedures in place to monitor her compliance with any such undertaking, and whether there is any documentary evidence of any such undertaking. If there is documentary evidence of any such undertaking then could you please provide a copy of that evidence.

I am sure that you will appreciate that the GMC has to ensure that the information before the Interim Orders Committee is accurate, and that in making its decision the Committee would have inevitably put some weight on the fact that Dr Barton informed it that she is currently operating under voluntary undertakings.

I would appreciate a response at the earliest available opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Paul Hylton Assistant Registrar

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