

Taken from the GMC website April 2013

The purpose of the General Medical Council (GMC) is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine.

The law gives us four main functions under the *Medical Act 1983*:

- keeping up-to-date registers of qualified doctors
- fostering good medical practice
- promoting high standards of medical education and training
- dealing firmly and fairly with doctors whose fitness to practise is in doubt.

The future of adjudication: making changes to our fitness to practise rules and our constitution of panels and Investigation Committee rules

The consultation will run from 14 May 2012 to 06 August 2012.

The GMC is currently consulting on proposed changes to the rules which govern how cases are heard by fitness to practise panels. **The aim of the changes is to make the hearing procedure shorter, reducing the stress for all involved.**

Our aim is to make the pre-hearing and hearing procedure shorter, reducing the stress for all involved. Fitness to practise is the most contentious and high profile area of our work. Maintaining a register of fit and proper individuals to practise medicine requires us at times to remove or restrict a doctor's registration. However, the purpose of our Fitness to Practise work is **not to punish doctors but above all to protect patients and to provide opportunities to remediate and rehabilitate doctors.**

Council

The Council is the governing body of the GMC. It is responsible for the overall control of the organisation.

The Council ensures that the GMC is properly managed by the Chief Executive and his team and that the organisation fulfils its statutory and charitable purposes to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine. Council members are also the trustees of the GMC, which is a registered charity.

Niall Dickson joined the General Medical Council as Chief Executive and Registrar in January 2010.

He leads the Senior Management Team, which is responsible for the day to day running of the GMC. He is accountable to [Council](#) and reports directly to the Chair of Council, Professor Sir Peter Rubin.

Following an independent appointments process, Professor Sir Peter Rubin was appointed Chair of the GMC's Council from 1st January 2013, having been the elected Chair since 2009.

The Council sets the overall strategy of the GMC and holds the Executive to account for delivering that strategy. Council members are not involved in the day to day running of the organisation.

The role of the Chair is to provide leadership to the Council; to preside over Council meetings, ensuring that business is dealt with in an efficient and effective manner; engage with Ministers, leaders of the medical profession and patient groups in all four countries of the UK; and to act as an ambassador for the GMC.

http://www.gmc-uk.org/07_Changes_to_the_proposed_statutory_basis_for_the_Medical_Practitioners_Tribunal_Service.pdf_51765398.pdf

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