

Tribunal Circular

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Revocation and relaxation of sanctions guidance

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GMC have been receiving requests from doctors to revoke or relax interim orders or substantive sanctions to allow them to return to clinical work or extend their medical roles. Guidance has been produced to assist GMC decision makers and MPTS tribunals when considering these requests.

IOT orders and MPT sanctions can only be revoked or relaxed by tribunals at a review hearing or by a legally qualified chair through a review on the papers.

It is expected that a request to revoke or relax an interim or substantive order/sanction during the COVID-19 pandemic will be based on two scenarios; a **change in circumstances** where changes have been made to the role a doctor was performing or a working environment which prevents them complying with their restrictions or a **doctor's wish to contribute** in order to offer their expertise and is prevented from doing so by their restrictions.

When a request is received from a doctor to relax or revoke a sanction or an interim order on their registration as a result of Covid-19, decisions makers and tribunals will weigh several factors when considering the request. These factors are detailed within the new guidance document.

It is important for GMC decision makers and tribunals to keep in mind that their decisions must still meet our overarching objective to protect the public and the overall risk posed by the doctor. The guidance already available to IOT and MPT tribunals states that the least restrictive order or sanction should be imposed to satisfy the overarching objective. This approach remains the same.

If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact us.

Kind regards

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