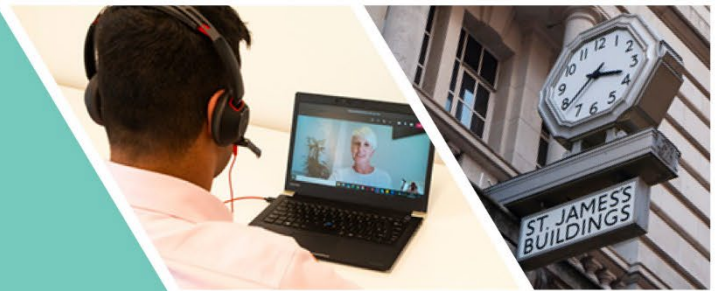


# Resource for PAs and AAs: IMT hearings



# How to use *Resource for PAs and AAs: IMT hearings*

We've created *Resource for PAs and AAs: IMT hearings* to support Physician Associates (PAs) and Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) who have been referred to an interim measures tribunal (IMT) hearing.

In this guide we aim to answer your questions about the IMT hearing process, from the initial stages through to after the hearing has ended.

*Resource for PAs and AAs* aims to provide basic information to assist PAs and AAs and does not constitute legal advice. It is important to urgently seek independent advice from a legal professional if you wish to do so.

All references in *Resource for PAs and AAs* to:

- ▶ **The Order** are to the Anaesthesia and Physician Associates Order 2024
- ▶ **The Rules** are to the GMC (Fitness to Practise) (Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates) Rules 2024.

See [our legislation pages](#) for more information about these.

If you are reading *Resource for PAs and AAs: IMT hearings* in hard copy, please note that full URLs for all links used can be found in the *Useful Links* section of this document.

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# Part 1:

# Overview of IMT hearings and the MPTS



# Part 1: Overview of IMT hearings and the MPTS

## Key points

- ▶ You can be referred to an IMT hearing at any stage during a GMC investigation
- ▶ We arrange the IMT hearing but play no part in the GMC's investigation
- ▶ The IMT is fully independent in its decision making and usually holds hearings in private.

## Role of the MPTS

The MPTS is a statutory committee of the GMC but is fully independent in its decision making and accountability to the UK Parliament.

We provide an adjudication service, which means we arrange for our IMT to make decisions about PAs and AAs whose fitness to practise has been called into question by the GMC.

## Why have I been referred to the IMT?

The GMC may decide to refer your case to an IMT hearing at any point during its consideration of concerns regarding your fitness to practise. The GMC's decision to refer a case to an IMT hearing will depend on whether the information gathered during an investigation means that the GMC believes an interim measure is needed.

The concerns leading to referral to IMT will fall within one or more of the following categories:

- ▶ Misconduct
- ▶ Inability to provide care to a sufficient standard

## What is the purpose of the IMT hearing?

At the hearing, the IMT must assess whether your registration should be restricted while the GMC investigates the concerns. IMT hearings are usually held in private, although, in exceptional circumstances, they can be held in public at your request or if the IMT considers it appropriate.

The IMT will not make findings of fact about the concerns and will not decide whether your fitness to practise is impaired. Instead, the IMT will assess the risk posed if your practise remains unrestricted during the GMC's investigation.

The IMT will consider whether an interim measure is:

- ▶ Necessary to protect members of the public – this is likely where the IMT is satisfied there is a risk to patient safety
- ▶ In the public interest – this includes maintaining public confidence in the profession and the upholding of proper standards of behaviour
- ▶ In your own interests – for example, where your health is having an adverse impact on your ability to provide care to a sufficient standard

## **What are the possible outcomes?**

If the IMT considers it necessary to do so, it may make an interim measure either placing conditions on or suspending your registration.

The IMT will decide the length of the measure, up to a maximum of 18 months. The interim measure may be extended beyond the maximum period by the relevant court. Further information about relevant court extensions of interim orders can be found in [Part 6](#).

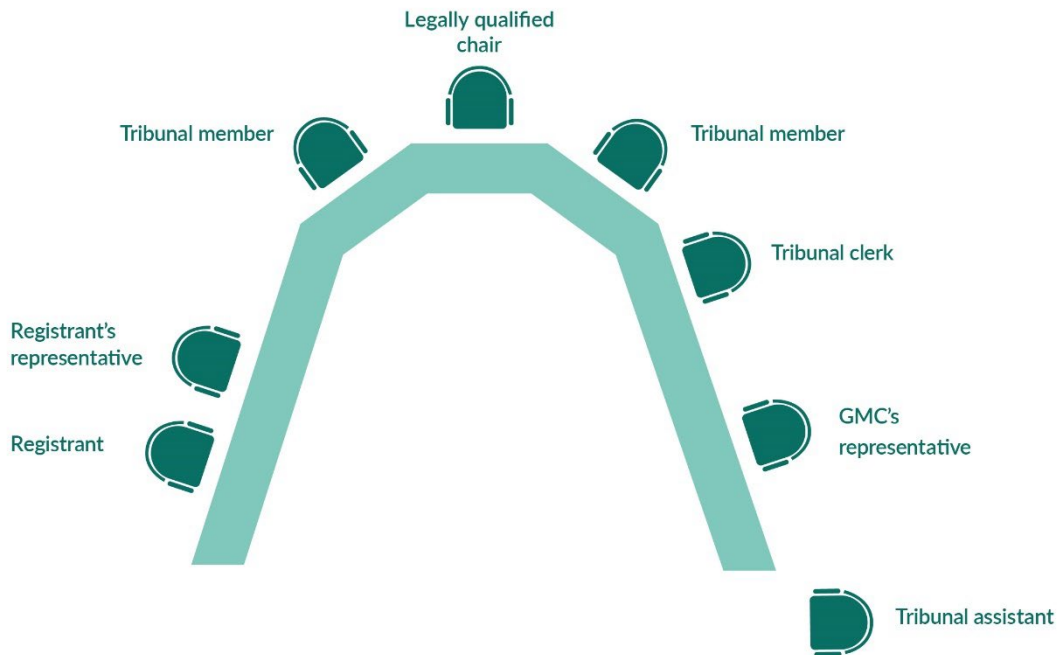
## **What are the main provisions of the Order and Rules relevant to IMT hearings?**

The powers of the IMT are set out in Articles 11 and 12 of the Order.

The procedure followed before and at IMT hearings is set out in Rules 9 and 19.

Other parts of the [Order and Rules](#) also apply to IMT hearings (for example, Rule 40 regarding the power to proceed in a registrant's absence), but are beyond the scope of these resources.

## Who will be at the hearing?



### Tribunal members

The IMT is made up of three tribunal members, appointed and trained by the MPTS. There will be at least one registrant member (a person who holds registration with the GMC) and at least one lay person (a person who does not hold and has never held registration with the GMC). One tribunal member will act as chair.

The chair of your hearing may be a legally qualified chair. The legally qualified chair will be either an experienced solicitor or barrister who will advise the IMT on questions of law as to evidence and procedure.

### Legal assessor

If the chair is not a legally qualified chair, we will appoint a legal assessor (an experienced barrister or solicitor) to advise the IMT on points of law and procedure. The legal assessor does not take part in the IMT's decision making.

### Other attendees

A legal representative instructed by the GMC will be present and will present the GMC's case.

There will also be an MPTS tribunal clerk present, who is responsible for the administration of the hearing, and an MPTS tribunal assistant, who provides assistance to both the IMT and the clerk.

## **How does an IMT hearing take place?**

The MPTS currently schedules IMT hearings to take place as virtual hearings. This means that a hearing will convene via Microsoft Teams, without any physical attendance at our hearing centre.

Information about technical and procedural aspects of remote attendance via Microsoft Teams can be accessed at [www.mpts-uk.org/virtualhearing](http://www.mpts-uk.org/virtualhearing).



## Part 2:

# Representation and support



## Part 2: Representation and support

### Key points

- ▶ You can be represented by a representative at the IMT hearing, or you may represent yourself
- ▶ There are different types of representation and sources of support available

### Representation and obtaining advice

As soon as you receive notice that the GMC has referred your case to an IMT hearing, you should take urgent action to decide how you will be represented at that hearing.

Being represented means that your representative will speak for you at the hearing and (where applicable) will ask questions of witnesses for you. You can be represented at IMT hearings in any of the ways explored below.

### Legal representation

If you're a member of a professional indemnity scheme, or if you have already organised your own legal representation, you should inform them urgently about your IMT hearing. They will be able to give you information and advice about your hearing.

You can organise your own legal representation by instructing a solicitor, barrister or legal executive to act on your behalf. You will be responsible for paying the fees of your appointed legal representatives:

- ▶ Solicitors: You can search for a law firm or solicitor according to geographical and practice area on the [Law Society's website](#)
- ▶ Legal executive: You can search for a Chartered Legal Executive on the [Chartered Institute of Legal Executives' \(CILEx\) website](#)
- ▶ Barrister (or advocate if working in Scotland): You can find more information about instructing a barrister on the [Bar Council website](#)

If you cannot afford to pay for legal advice and representation, then you may be able to obtain assistance at a reduced fee or for free:

- ▶ [Advocate](#) is a charity which assists in finding free legal help from volunteer barristers
- ▶ Organisations such as [Citizens Advice](#) and [Law Works](#) can also provide free legal advice

## Other representation

You may be represented by someone from any professional organisation of which you are a member.

You may decide that you would like a family member or other lay person to represent you. At the beginning of the hearing the IMT will decide if they are a suitable person to do this. To help reach this decision, the IMT will consider any available information, including the person's criminal record (if any) and history.

## Self-representation

We strongly advise you to seek advice and be legally represented. However, if you represent yourself at your hearing, you should take time to familiarise yourself with the hearing process. Representing yourself will mean that you will prepare your own case and speak on your own behalf at the IMT hearing.

Please let the MPTS know as soon as possible if you have decided to represent yourself. You should also take time to read these resources, along with other documents provided to you by the GMC and the MPTS before the hearing takes place.

Further information is provided in [Part 3](#) about what to do if you do not appoint a representative and do not wish to attend the IMT hearing, but wish to provide written submissions for the IMT to consider.

## Other sources of support

There are also sources of non-legal support available for you to use during the hearing process.

## Hearing information line

The hearing information line is run by volunteer students from BPP University School of Law, Manchester. The volunteers cannot comment on your case or give legal advice, but they can explain more about the hearing process and what to expect at the hearing centre.

[Find more information about the hearing information line](#)

## MPTS support service

The MPTS support service is provided by MPTS staff who can provide support and assistance to you prior to or during the hearing. They can provide information about the hearing process and signpost you to other support services that may be helpful when preparing for your hearing. MPTS staff are unable to discuss your case or provide legal advice. You can access this service by leaving a voicemail message on 0161 240 7178 or by emailing [MPTSsupport@mpts-uk.org](mailto:MPTSsupport@mpts-uk.org).

## Bringing a McKenzie friend

A McKenzie friend is someone who assists you in preparing your case by helping with paperwork and going with you to the hearing. They cannot represent you at the hearing, but they can suggest questions for you to ask.

Your McKenzie friend can also take notes for you of what is said during the hearing – you may find this useful when you are speaking to the IMT. Please note that MPTS staff will not be able to take notes for you.

While McKenzie friends may be knowledgeable about the hearing process, they are generally not legally qualified and there is no requirement for them to be. But you can use a legally qualified person to act for you in this capacity if you wish.

Anyone can act as a McKenzie friend, apart from someone who is to be a witness in the hearing. You will be responsible for paying any expenses that they may have.

If you intend to bring a McKenzie friend to your hearing, please inform us as soon as possible and complete [Form M1: Bringing a McKenzie Friend](#). Your McKenzie friend will be expected to agree to the code of conduct attached to the form.

## Bringing a supporter

A friend or family member can be present with you for moral support during your hearing, unless they are a witness in the hearing. Unless they are given permission by the IMT, your supporter will not be entitled to be heard at the hearing. They may be asked by the IMT to confirm who they are and that they understand their role is provide support only.

## Part 3:

# Receiving notice of your IMT hearing



## Part 3: Receiving notice of your IMT hearing

### Key points

- ▶ You will receive notice of your IMT hearing at least 7 days in advance of the hearing, unless in exceptional circumstances
- ▶ It is for you to decide whether to attend your IMT hearing. If you choose not to attend, the hearing may proceed in your absence. You may submit written submissions instead if you wish to do so
- ▶ If you think it isn't possible for your IMT hearing to go ahead on the scheduled date, you may apply for a postponement. It is important you set out the reasoning for your application clearly, along with any evidence

### Receiving notice of referral to IMT hearing

If the GMC chooses to refer you to an IMT, the GMC will write to inform you of this and the reasons for the referral. For further information about how and why cases are referred to the IMT, see [Part 1](#).

The GMC letter will also include a copy of any documents the GMC intends to present to the IMT. This is referred to as the IMT hearing bundle.

When you receive your hearing bundle, you should carefully consider the documents included within it. If you have any questions concerning the documents in the bundle you can communicate this to your contact at the GMC.

### Receiving notice of your hearing

You will then receive a written Notice of Hearing from the MPTS which will:

- ▶ Give the date, time and venue of the hearing
- ▶ Confirm that you have the right to attend the hearing and be represented
- ▶ Confirm that the hearing can proceed in your absence if the IMT is satisfied that you have been given notice of the hearing
- ▶ Explain the IMT's powers.

You will usually receive the Notice of Hearing at least seven days before your hearing is due to take place. In exceptional cases, the notice period may be shorter. Information about attending the hearing by Microsoft Teams will be provided to you before the hearing and a test call can be arranged if required.

## **Deciding to take part in your hearing**

You don't have to attend the IMT hearing, but it is usually in your best interests to do so. For example, questions might arise that only you can answer, and you will be able to give the IMT your comments about the GMC's application to impose an interim order. If you have not already done so, please let us know at [interimhearings@mpts-uk.org](mailto:interimhearings@mpts-uk.org) if you will be attending the IMT hearing, if you will be represented and, if so, provide the name of your representative.

Please also let us know as soon as possible if you have any additional needs that affect whether you can attend the hearing (eg because of a disability or communication difficulty) and provide details of any reasonable adjustments required.

The hearing may go ahead without you or your representative being present if the IMT is satisfied that you have been given notice of the hearing and it is appropriate to proceed in your absence. It is your responsibility to keep your contact details up to date so we can contact you.

## **Asking to postpone your hearing**

If you think that it isn't possible for your IMT hearing to go ahead on the scheduled date you must make an application to the MPTS at the earliest opportunity.

To make an application, please download and complete [Form P4: Postponement application](#) setting your application out in writing and send it to [interimhearings@mpts-uk.org](mailto:interimhearings@mpts-uk.org).

You should clearly explain your reasons for seeking a postponement, identify the length of postponement you wish to request and include any supporting documentation, such as copies of documents confirming prior travel arrangements or medical appointment. A copy of your application will be shared with the GMC who will be asked to submit written comments in response.

Your application will then be considered by a legally qualified MPTS case manager. The MPTS case manager will balance your interests with the public interest, as well



as fairness to both sides, when making their decision. The MPTS case manager will also take into account our [guidance for decision makers on postponements](#) – you may find it useful to consider this document before making your application. In practice the circumstances where a postponement will be permitted are limited. Any postponement is likely to be very short as the IMT must assess whether your registration should be restricted on an interim basis as soon as possible.

Both you and the GMC will be notified of the decision in writing as soon as possible. If the postponement is agreed, your hearing will be rescheduled for a later date. If it is not agreed, your hearing will proceed as scheduled. If new issues arise after your postponement application has been decided, you can submit a further postponement application.

If the GMC or MPTS applies to postpone your IMT hearing, the same procedure will apply – you will be asked to submit written comments which will be considered by the MPTS case manager and will then be notified of the outcome.

## Part 4:

# Preparing for your IMT hearing



## Part 4: Preparing for your IMT hearing

### Key points

- ▶ If you attend the hearing, you may make oral and/or written submissions. Witness evidence is not usually received at IMT hearings
- ▶ If you do not attend the hearing, you may provide written submissions
- ▶ Whether you intend to provide oral or written submissions, it is important you prepare your submissions carefully and in advance of the hearing
- ▶ Any documents should be provided as soon as possible prior to the hearing

### Reviewing the hearing bundle

You will have received the hearing bundle with the GMC letter notifying you of your referral to the IMT. If you have not received a copy of the bundle, or require it in a different format, you should urgently notify your GMC contact.

The hearing bundle will contain the documents the GMC intends to present to the IMT to explain why the GMC believes an interim measure is required. You should carefully consider the documents included within it.

If you want to refer to material that is not in the hearing bundle, you need to send this to MPTS without delay before the hearing. The MPTS will make this information available to the IMT. If you can't send the documents in advance, you can submit them on the day of the hearing. If your bundle of additional documents is large, you should highlight key documents for the IMT to consider, with page numbers for ease of reference.

If you plan to produce any patient identifiable information at the hearing we would remind you of the GMC guidance on [Confidentiality: good practice in handling patient information](#). It's important to ensure that documents you disclose comply with your responsibilities under data protection legislation. The party relying on a document is responsible for ensuring that any personal data appearing in that document is appropriately redacted.

## Issues to be considered

At the hearing the IMT will consider whether to restrict your registration on an interim basis, either by placing conditions on or suspending your registration. The IMT will apply our [guidance on tribunal decisions for interim measures](#). You may find it helpful to refer to this guidance to understand the issues the IMT will consider, which will include:

- ▶ The seriousness of risk to members of the public if a PA or AA continues to hold unrestricted registration. In assessing this risk the IMT will consider the seriousness of the concerns and the weight of the information, including information about the likelihood of a further incident or incidents occurring during the relevant period
- ▶ Whether public confidence in the profession is likely to be seriously damaged if a PA or AA continues to hold unrestricted registration during the relevant period
- ▶ Whether it is in the PA's or AA's interests to hold unrestricted registration. For example, where a PA or AA may lack insight into the impact of a health condition and how it is affecting them.

In weighing up these factors, the IMT will carefully consider the proportionality of their response in dealing with the risk to the public interest (including patient safety and public confidence) and the adverse consequences of any action on a PA's or AA's own interests.

## Types of submissions

During the IMT hearing, you will be given the opportunity to present your case for consideration by the IMT: this is called a submission. The GMC representative will make submissions on behalf of the GMC and then you will be invited to present your case. There are two types of submission you can make, which are explained below.

### Oral or verbal submissions

Oral submissions are when you make your arguments to the IMT by speaking at the hearing in person. If you are represented at the hearing (see [Part 2](#) for further information about representation), your representative will make submissions on your behalf.

It is strongly advisable to prepare your oral submissions in advance. To do this, you may wish to prepare an outline or bullet point list to help you remember the points you want to make.

## Written submissions

If you do not intend to attend or be represented at the hearing, you may send written submissions instead. You may also find it helpful to make written submissions if you plan to attend the hearing but are concerned about public speaking or to make sure that you make all the points you want to.

It is essential to prepare and send your written submissions to the MPTS in advance, ideally by email to our interim hearings team at [interimhearings@mpts-uk.org](mailto:interimhearings@mpts-uk.org). This will allow us to ensure that your written submissions are provided to the IMT.

## Preparing and making submissions

When planning your submissions you may find it helpful to consider:

- ▶ The reasons why the GMC has referred you to an IMT hearing
- ▶ Whether or not you agree that an interim measure is required, and why.

Always adopt an organised approach to planning your submissions:

- ▶ Organise your points in a logical order, using clear headings
- ▶ Think about how to break down the points you want to make, so that you can present your argument in manageable chunks. For example, if you have four reasons which support your view, say so and refer to each reason by number ('my first reason is...my second reason is...' etc.)
- ▶ Be prepared to tell the IMT where to find each piece of evidence that supports your position (for example, by referring to the page number in the hearing bundle). This way you can be confident that they are reading the information you want to draw to their attention while you are making the points you want to about it.

Use plain English and aim to be as concise as possible, using short sentences. While you will be given the opportunity to make the points you wish to, the IMT often has several cases to consider on the same day and will expect your submissions to be

focused. Please note that, if you choose to use artificial intelligence to help prepare your written submissions, it remains your responsibility to ensure that the content is accurate, truthful and correctly sets out what you want to say.

### **Practical points for oral submissions**

- ▶ Before the hearing, practise what you want to say by saying it out loud to a friend or family member. This way you can check if it is easy to follow and understand and you can get a feel of the flow of your argument
- ▶ During the hearing:
  - ▶ Make sure your microphone is switched on. When you have finished speaking, remember to turn your microphone off
  - ▶ Make sure you speak clearly and slowly so that the IMT can take notes, which it will refer to throughout the hearing and in making its decisions
  - ▶ When you finish your sentence, if the IMT is still writing, wait. When the IMT stops writing, start speaking again
  - ▶ Don't interrupt the GMC representative when they are speaking to the IMT. You will be given a chance to speak when it is your turn. If, however, you think that you need to interrupt, make sure you do it in the right way: address the Chair when the GMC representative comes to the end of their sentence and explain the reason for your interruption
  - ▶ Listen carefully to any questions asked by the IMT and answer them clearly
  - ▶ Try to stay calm and avoid using strongly emotional language.

### **Practical points for written submissions**

- ▶ Typed written submissions are preferable to handwritten notes
- ▶ Use a large font like Arial 14. It makes it clear to read
- ▶ Use headings to signpost each point you are making and use bullet points or numbered points to make your arguments clear.

# Part 5:

# During your IMT hearing



## Part 5: During your IMT hearing

### Key points

- ▶ If you are attending your hearing, be ready to attend in good time to avoid delays
- ▶ You will be given the opportunity to present your case to the IMT and will receive a written decision regarding the outcome
- ▶ If you believe your hearing cannot proceed for some reason, you can apply to the IMT for an adjournment. If the adjournment is refused, then the hearing will continue as planned

### Attending for your hearing

Because several cases usually take place on the same day, there may be some waiting time. As the length of hearings can vary quite considerably, please be aware that this can have an impact on the actual start time of hearings.

You will be provided in advance with details of how to access the hearing using Microsoft Teams. You should aim to be ready at least 30 minutes before your hearing is due to start. When you access the hearing via the link provided to you, you will be taken to a virtual waiting area until the hearing is ready to start.

### Before your hearing starts

An MPTS tribunal assistant will provide you with updates on when the IMT will be ready to start your hearing. The MPTS staff member will not be able to discuss your case or provide legal advice.

### In the hearing

At the beginning of the hearing, the chair will introduce the tribunal members and open the hearing by asking you to confirm your full name and GMC number.

The GMC's barrister will present the GMC's case first. Listen carefully to their oral submissions. You may wish to make notes as they are speaking, noting down anything you want to add to your submissions in light of the GMC's comments.



You (or your representative, if you have one) will then be given the opportunity to present your case. You must make sure that your submissions are limited to the question of whether, given the circumstances of the case, it is necessary to impose an interim measure and, if so, what type of order. The IMT may also ask questions if they need any further information.

After submissions from both sides, the IMT will make their decision. This is done in private session (also known as ‘in camera’ discussions) without the parties to the proceedings being present. During this time, the IMT will make its decision and produce a written determination.

Once this has been completed, the MPTS tribunal assistant will ask you and the GMC’s representative to return to the hearing. The chair will then announce the decision and copies of the written determination will be handed out. At this point the hearing will end.

If you have chosen not to attend the hearing, we will send you written notification of the hearing outcome by registered post and by email if you have given us an email address to use.

## Hearing outcomes

The outcome of your hearing will be one of the following:

- ▶ No measure imposed
- ▶ Interim measure of conditions – this means that you must comply with the conditions specified by the IMT in their decision until the measure expires or is otherwise revoked or varied by the IMT. Interim conditions take effect immediately. The conditions the IMT put in place will be based on the [conditions bank](#) available on the MPTS website
- ▶ Interim measure of suspension – this means that your registration is suspended and you will not be able to practise until the measure expires or is otherwise revoked or varied by the IMT. Interim suspension takes effect immediately.

## Length of your interim measure

The length of your interim measure will be specified in the IMT’s written decision. The IMT may make an interim measure for up to 18 months.

In deciding the length of measure the IMT will consider the time that is reasonably needed to complete the GMC's investigation into the concerns. This may include the time required for the GMC to obtain assessments of health and or/performance or/knowledge of English and for the case to be listed for hearing by an Associate Tribunal.

## **Adjourning your hearing**

Both you and the GMC can apply to have your hearing adjourned. An adjournment application can be made to the IMT in person for the hearing to be temporarily stopped for a period of time (for example, 30 minutes or more) or adjourned to another day. The IMT can also decide to adjourn the hearing without receiving an application if it feels it appropriate to do so.

You can apply to adjourn the hearing at any stage once it has begun, as set out in Rule 38. Before deciding whether to adjourn, the IMT will hear submissions from you and the GMC about the application. If you are requesting an adjournment you should be prepared to explain why an adjournment is necessary and the length of adjournment required.

The legally qualified chair or the Legal Assessor (as applicable) may advise on any issues of law or procedure that the IMT must consider in making its decision. If the legally qualified chair or Legal Assessor gives advice before the IMT begins deciding the application, you and the GMC will hear it and be able to respond.

The IMT will then consider the application and make a decision in private session. It will then announce its decision to the parties.

If an application for an adjournment is refused, you and the GMC will be expected to be ready to continue with the hearing. If the IMT accepts the application, or if it decides on its own motion to adjourn, the hearing will be adjourned for an agreed period or to a date to be fixed by us.

# Part 6:

# After your IMT hearing



## Part 6: After your IMT hearing

### Key points

- ▶ Only the outcome of your IMT hearing will be published. Matters discussed at the hearing and the reasons set out in the determination will not be published

### Notification of the hearing outcome

The MPTS will send you written confirmation of the IMT's full written determination shortly after the end of the hearing. This will be sent by email if you have agreed to receive emails about your hearing. The notification will inform you of the outcome and what will happen next. The notification letter will also explain that you may apply to court for the interim measure to be revoked or varied.

### Publishing Decisions

#### Why are decisions published?

We have a statutory duty to publish a range of decisions including those made by the IMT. We also have a discretionary power to withhold any information concerning the physical or mental health of a person which is considered to be confidential.

We believe that openness about our processes and the decisions made by our tribunals and by individual tribunal members is of benefit to everyone involved in our hearings. This includes publishing information about a PA's or AA's registration in a format that is easily accessible.

Our hearing decisions are published in two places:

- ▶ in the register of PAs and AAs on the GMC website. This is an online database of all those registered with the GMC. [View the register of PAs and AAs.](#)
- ▶ [on the recent decisions page of our website.](#)

#### What information is published?

The detailed decisions of IMT hearings are not published.

However, where the tribunal makes an interim measure to suspend a PA or AA or impose conditions on their registration pending the outcome of a GMC investigation:

- ▶ these are published in a website notice on the recent decisions page of our website and are removed after six weeks
- ▶ they are also published on the GMC register while they are active.

If a PA or AA's name is removed from the register while an interim measure is active, it will be published for a year from the date of removal.

## What information is not published?

We do not publish any information about a registrant's health, including the details of conditions that relate solely to health.

## Overseas regulators

The GMC has a commitment to exchange information between healthcare regulators. Therefore, if you gained your registrable qualification outside the UK, or your registered address is outside the UK, the GMC will contact the relevant regulator in that country at the end of your hearing, if the IMT directs that conditions be imposed on your registration or that your registration be suspended.

## Reviewing your interim measure

Your interim measure will be reviewed periodically to consider whether the measure remains necessary and sufficient. The review may be conducted by a GMC Case Examiner or it may be by the IMT.

For more information regarding IMT review hearings, see [Part 7: Reviews of your interim order](#).

## Extending your interim measure

The IMT will have specified the length of your interim measure, which will be a maximum of up to 18 months, although it may be less. If the IMT puts in place an interim measure for a period of less than 18 months, the interim measure may be extended when the measure is reviewed. For more information regarding IMT review hearings, see [Part 7: Reviews of your interim order](#).

If the GMC has not completed its investigation and believes the interim measure is required beyond the expiry of the interim measure, the Order allows the GMC to apply to the relevant court for the interim measure to be extended by up to 12 months at a time. The relevant court will depend on your registered address but will be either the Court of Session in Scotland, the High Court in Northern Ireland, or the High Court in England and Wales. Applications must be made in compliance with the procedural rules of the relevant court.

The MPTS has no involvement in applications made to the relevant court. All queries regarding applications to the relevant court for an extension should be addressed to your GMC contact.

# Part 7:

# Reviews of your interim measure



## Part 7: Reviews of your interim measure

### Key points

- ▶ Your interim measure will be reviewed periodically either by GMC Case Examiners or by the IMT to consider whether the measure remains necessary and sufficient.

### Review of the interim measure

A decision to impose an interim measure takes effect immediately. If the IMT decides to impose an interim measure, the measure must be reviewed within the first six months of it coming into force and then at intervals of at least every six months. This is to ensure that it remains necessary and appropriate for the interim measure to remain in place.

Where an interim measure has been imposed, the GMC will decide when to refer the case to GMC Case Examiners or to an IMT for the interim measure to be reviewed. You will be contacted by the GMC when your interim measure is due to be reviewed. If you think your interim measure requires an early review, you should liaise with your usual GMC contact.

For interim measures referred to the IMT for review, the IMT will consider whether an interim measure remains necessary to protect the public or is otherwise in the interests of the public or the PA or AA.

At review hearings, the IMT can:

- ▶ maintain the existing interim measure
- ▶ replace an existing interim measure of conditions with one of suspension (and vice versa)
- ▶ Vary interim conditions imposed
- ▶ Revoke the existing interim measure.

The IMT will consider the relevant information previously presented at earlier hearings and any other new information which has been received since. It will use all of this information to decide whether an interim measure ought to remain in place and what type.



You will be notified of an IMT review hearing at least seven days in advance of your hearing, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

# Useful links



# Useful Links

Our website:

[www.mpts-uk.org/](http://www.mpts-uk.org/)

Our resources for parties and representatives:

[www.mpts-uk.org/parties-and-representatives](http://www.mpts-uk.org/parties-and-representatives)

Our legislation pages:

[www.mpts-uk.org/legislation](http://www.mpts-uk.org/legislation)

## Part 1

Our legislation pages:

[www.mpts-uk.org/legislation](http://www.mpts-uk.org/legislation)

How to find us:

[www.mpts-uk.org/contact-us](http://www.mpts-uk.org/contact-us)

Take a virtual tour of the hearing centre:

[www.mpts-uk.org/attending-a-hearing](http://www.mpts-uk.org/attending-a-hearing)

## Part 2

The Law Society:

<https://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk/>

The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives' (CILEx):

<https://cilexportal.cilexgroup.org.uk/CILEx-Directory>

The Bar Council:

[www.barcouncil.org.uk/bar-council-services/for-the-public.html](http://www.barcouncil.org.uk/bar-council-services/for-the-public.html)

Advocate:

<https://weareadvocate.org.uk/>

Citizen's Advice:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/)

Law Works:

[www.lawworks.org.uk/](http://www.lawworks.org.uk/)

The Hearing Information Line:

[www.mpts-uk.org/hearing-information-line](http://www.mpts-uk.org/hearing-information-line)

Our McKenzie Friend form, Form M1, can be found here:

[www.mpts-uk.org/parties-and-representatives/hearing-resources#mpt](http://www.mpts-uk.org/parties-and-representatives/hearing-resources#mpt)

### **Part 3**

Our guidance for virtual hearings:

[www.mpts-uk.org/virtualhearing](http://www.mpts-uk.org/virtualhearing)

Our postponement application form, Form P4, can be found here:

[www.mpts-uk.org/parties-and-representatives/hearing-resources-for-pas-and-aas#interim-measures-tribunals](http://www.mpts-uk.org/parties-and-representatives/hearing-resources-for-pas-and-aas#interim-measures-tribunals)

Our guidance for decision makers on postponements:

[www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-documents/dc23371---postponing-or-further-adjourning-interim-measures-tribunal-hearings-guidance-for-109211810](http://www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-documents/dc23371---postponing-or-further-adjourning-interim-measures-tribunal-hearings-guidance-for-109211810)

### **Part 4**

The GMC's guidance on confidentiality:

[www.gmc-uk.org/confidentiality](http://www.gmc-uk.org/confidentiality)

Our guidance for interim measures decision makers:

[www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-documents/dc23373---tribunal-decisions-on-interim-measures\\_docx-109209629](http://www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-documents/dc23373---tribunal-decisions-on-interim-measures_docx-109209629)

### **Part 5**

How to get to our hearing centre:

[www.mpts-uk.org/attending-a-hearing](http://www.mpts-uk.org/attending-a-hearing)

Our conditions bank:

[www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-documents/dc23374---associate-professions-interim-conditions--apics-\\_docx-109213225](http://www.mpts-uk.org/-/media/mpts-documents/dc23374---associate-professions-interim-conditions--apics-_docx-109213225)

## Part 6

The register of PAs and AAs:

[www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/our-registers](http://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/our-registers)

Our recent decisions:

[www.mpts-uk.org/hearings-and-decisions](http://www.mpts-uk.org/hearings-and-decisions)



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To ask for this publication in another format or language, please call us on **0161 923 6602** or email us at [publications@gmc-uk.org](mailto:publications@gmc-uk.org).

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You are welcome to contact us in Welsh. We will respond in Welsh, without this causing additional delay.

Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â ni yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hyn achosi oedi ychwanegol.