

Publishing hearing decisions

Why are decisions published?

We have a statutory duty to publish a range of decisions including those made by medical practitioners tribunals and interim orders tribunals. We have a discretionary power to withhold any information concerning the physical or mental health of a person which we consider 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 doctor's registration in a format that is easily accessible.

Our hearing decisions and reviews on the papers decisions made by tribunal chairs are published in two places.

- I In the medical register on the GMC website. This is an online database of all doctors registered with the GMC.
- I On the recent decisions page of our website.

What information is published?

Decisions from interim orders tribunals and reviews on the papers

The detailed decisions of interim orders tribunal hearings and of interim orders reviews on the papers are not published.

However, where the tribunal makes an interim order to suspend a doctor or impose conditions on their registration pending the outcome of an investigation:

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

If a doctor takes voluntary erasure or is administratively erased while an interim order is active, it will be published for a year from the date of erasure.

Decisions from new medical practitioners tribunal hearings

We publish all new hearing decisions, except those that relate solely to a doctor's health, on the recent decisions page of our website for 12 months.

Where a tribunal makes a finding of impairment or of non-compliance, or

makes a finding of no impairment but issues a warning, these decisions are published on the medical register in line with the time limits set out in the GMC's publication and disclosure policy at www.gmc-uk.org/disclosurepolicy.

If the tribunal makes no finding of impairment and does not issue a warning or if the tribunal in a non-compliance hearing' makes no finding of non-compliance, nothing is published on the medical register.

Decisions from review medical practitioners tribunal hearings and reviews on the papers

We publish decisions about review hearings on the recent decisions page of our website and on the medical register regardless of the outcome of the hearing or of the review on the papers.

Decisions on applications for voluntary erasure and for restoration to the medical register

We publish decisions of all medical practitioners tribunal hearings to consider an application for voluntary erasure on the recent decisions page of our website. If voluntary erasure is granted after a finding of impaired fitness to practise, the decision is also published on the medical register.

If the tribunal has been asked to consider an application for restoration of a doctor's name to the medical register, where the doctor's fitness to practise was previously found to be impaired, we publish these on the recent decisions page of our website and on the medical register.

If the tribunal has been asked to consider an application for restoration where there is no previous finding of impaired fitness to practise, we publish the decision on the recent decisions page of our website only.

What information is not published?

We do not publish any information, including the details of conditions or undertakings that relate solely to a doctor's health. Where details about a doctor's health are disclosed during any part of a hearing that is held in public, or in a review on the papers this information is redacted from the published decisions.

Appeals

Doctors have 28 days to appeal a decision on sanction before it becomes effective on their registration. This appeal period is published on their record on the medical register.

We publish information about appeal outcomes in line with our publication and disclosure policy, which you can find under Useful links below.

Key points

- I We publish information to be open and transparent and to comply with legal requirements.
- I We do not publish any information that relates solely to a doctor's health.

Useful links

View the medical register at www.gmc-uk.org/lrmp.

You can see a full list of recent decisions at www.mpts-uk.org/hearings-and-decisions.

Find more information about the GMC's publication and disclosure policy at www.gmc-uk.org/disclosurepolicy.

Read more about rights to appeal in the *After your hearing* section of this guide: www.mpts-uk.org/doctors-and-representatives/resource-for-doctors-medical-practitioners-tribunals