

This is the public version of the circular issued on 12 April 2013.  
All guidance to panellists is included below; only internal or administrative matters have been redacted.

Panellist Circular



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12 April 2013

**To: Fitness to Practise Panellists**

**CC: IOP Panellists**

**All Legal Assessors**

**All Panel Secretaries**

### **Case Manager Directions**

Under Rule 16 (6) of the General Medical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules 2004, the case manager may issue directions which '....he considers appropriate having regard to the nature of the allegation....' and under Rule 16 (8) 'A FTP Panel may draw such inference as it considers appropriate in respect of the failure by a party to comply with directions issued by the Case Manager.'

As part of our aim to develop case management to provide improvements to our hearings process, we will start to provide panels with a copy of the directions issued by a case manager in advance of a hearing.

Copies of case manager directions will be provided to panels in addition to the agenda where the case has been managed through the case review process and directions have been issued. At present, not all of our cases have directions issued and therefore this means that not all panels will receive any additional information prior to the hearing.

Panels will receive a copy of any directions at the same time and in the same format as they receive the hearing agenda. We are, however, looking to extend the use of GMC Connect to fitness to practise panellists so that any documentation sent to panellists in advance of the hearing would be sent through this system.

Panellists should ensure that they review the case directions in advance of the hearing, as these may be of assistance in their decision making, including in preliminary matters.

Kind Regards

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The MPTS makes impartial decisions in doctors' fitness to practise hearings. The MPTS is part of the General Medical Council, but it is operationally separate and it is accountable to Parliament.