

Panellist Circular



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To: IOP Panellists

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High Court Extensions for Interim Orders

Section 41A (6) of The Medical Act 1983 provides that where an extension for an order made by an interim orders panel is required, The General Medical Council (GMC) should apply to the relevant court for such extensions.

Historically, as part of submissions made by the GMC an Interim Orders Panel would be asked to notify the Registrar of the GMC that an extension was required and typically reference to this decision would be included in the written decision.

This process has been reviewed, and as there is no requirement under the Act or rules for panels to direct that the GMC apply for an extension of an order, **with immediate effect**, panels will not receive any submissions on such matters and should not make directions in this regard. Panels will be advised when the order will lapse in order to direct the appropriate period for the next review.

Where an extension is required, the GMC will ensure that they make any applications to extend an order as required and if an extension is granted then the matter will be referred back to the panel for a review within the standard time frames. The GMC will also ensure that the doctor is notified of their intention to apply to extend the order.

If a panel is requested to provide a direction on an extension, they should advise that it is not a matter for the panel to make such an extension and note this in the written decision

Kind Regards

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