

## Part 12: After your medical practitioners tribunal hearing

### Key points

- ▶ We publish information about hearings to be open and transparent and to comply with legal requirements. Any information that relates solely to a doctor's health will not be published.
- ▶ If you gained your primary medical qualification outside of the UK, the GMC will contact the medical regulator of that country and inform them of your hearing outcome
- ▶ The outcome of the medical practitioners tribunal hearing may be appealed by you or by the GMC
- ▶ If your registration is made subject to an order of conditions or suspension, your case may be reviewed by the medical practitioners tribunal towards end of the sanction period

### Notification of the hearing outcome

At the end of the hearing, the chair will read out the medical practitioners tribunal's decision and the tribunal clerk will give you a written copy. If the medical practitioners tribunal has decided to suspend your registration or to erase your name from the medical register, you may be asked to sign to confirm that you have received the copy.

If you chose not come to the hearing, we'll send you written confirmation of the outcome immediately after the hearing by registered post, and by email if you gave us or the GMC an email address to use in relation to fitness to practise matters

## Publishing decisions

We have a statutory duty to publish a range of decisions including those made by the medical practitioners tribunal. 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. Detailed information on how and when we publish decisions can be found in our [Guidance on publishing hearing decisions](#).

## Overseas regulators

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

## Making an appeal against the decision

### Your right of appeal

The statutory period to lodge an appeal is 28 days. You can appeal – to the High Court in England and Wales, to the Court of Session in Scotland, or to the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland – against any medical practitioners tribunal decision that restricts or removes your registration. The written notification of the hearing outcome will include details of the appeal process.

If you received and signed for a notification at the hearing, the 28 days run from the date of the medical practitioners tribunal's decision. If this did not happen, the 28 days will run from the day on which, as set out in the Act, notification was deemed to have been served on you, by post or email.

If you appeal, any immediate order will take effect, but the sanction won't come into effect until the appeal ends or is withdrawn.

MPTS staff cannot advise you in relation to appealing a medical practitioners tribunal decision. You may wish to seek legal advice to assist you – see [Part 2](#) for details of organisations which may be able to assist.

## Other appeals

The GMC has the power to appeal if it considers that the hearing outcome is not sufficient for the protection of the public, the GMC's overarching objective. Any appeal must be made within 28 days of notification of the decision. If the GMC decide to lodge an appeal, you will be served notice directly by the GMC.

The [Professional Standards Authority](#) may also refer decisions to court that they think are not sufficient for the protection of the public. The PSA will notify you if they make a referral decision, which must be made within 56 days of the medical practitioners tribunal decision. Further information about the PSA is available on their website or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.

## Review hearings

If the medical practitioners tribunal imposes conditions on or suspends your registration, it may also direct that your case should be reviewed by the medical practitioners tribunal before the expiry of the sanction. At the review hearing, the medical practitioners tribunal will consider whether your fitness to practise is still impaired, and any further action that needs to be taken against your registration, if any.

You will receive separate correspondence from the MPTS and the GMC about when your review hearing will be held, and the steps you need to take to prepare.

## Review on the papers

Your case can also be reviewed 'on the papers'. This means a review would take place without attendance at a hearing by you or the GMC. All cases that are due for a review will be considered, but a review on the papers won't always be possible.

Further detailed guidance about reviews on the papers, including the steps you need to take, can be found in our [Guidance on reviews on the papers](#).

If you'd like to provide feedback on *Resource for doctors: medical practitioners tribunals* please go to: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ResourceforDoctors\\_MPT\\_Part12/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ResourceforDoctors_MPT_Part12/)