

To: Tribunal Members

Legal Assessors

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Date: 8 July 2016

Quality Assurance Group (QAG) – Learning Points

As you know, the QAG members meet every month to review a selection of the decisions of Medical Practitioners and Interim Orders Tribunals. We would like to share some of the learning points we have identified in the early part of 2016.

Interim Order Tribunals

Reasons

In accordance with rule 27(4)(g) General Medical Council (Fitness to Practise) Rules Order of Council 2004, the Interim Orders Tribunal 'shall announce its decision, and shall give its reasons for that decision'. A number of recent determinations have included a list of bullet points detailing factors taken into account when making the decision as to whether an order is necessary. It does not automatically follow that factors considered by a tribunal form the basis of the reasons for the decision, and therefore we wish to remind tribunals that in accordance with the above rule they are required to provide the reasons for their decision. Simply stating factors considered by the tribunal are likely to be considered inadequate reasons.

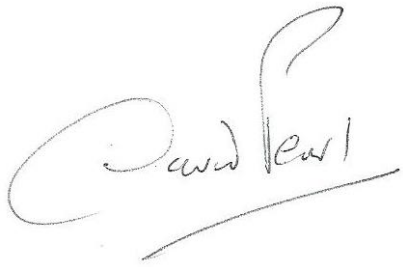
Paragraphs 50 and 51 of the guidance on '[Imposing interim orders](#)' provides further guidance on the provision of reasons for IOT decisions.

Proof-reading determinations

We wish to remind tribunals of the importance of proof-reading determinations to ensure that the decisions are clear, well structured, and do not contain any typographical errors. Determinations should also be written in Plain English and as such Latin terms or jargon should be avoided or, where essential to use the term, explained.

I hope that you will find this note useful, but please do contact us should you wish to discuss this further.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Pearl', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

His Honour David Pearl
Chair of Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service