Quality Assurance Group (QAG) - General Learning Points

For our first communication from QAG for 2019, I want to start by commending the high quality of determinations we have seen over the recent months. It is apparent that reflection on learning points we have shared through various routes and your own commitment to improving the quality of our determinations is having the right impact.

We have gathered a number of learning points that we have identified from our reviews of Medical Practitioners Tribunals and Interim Order Tribunals determinations during 2018 and I wish to share them with you to continue our approach to achieving high quality, well-reasoned and clear decisions.

Case-law and guidance

As discussed at annual training in 2018, it is important that references to case law and guidance are relevant and clearly explained so as to demonstrate how they relate to or support the reasoning of the Tribunal. Simply listing case names or paragraph numbers from guidance does not add to the reader’s understanding of the reasoning of the determination. It is also important that the correct version of guidance is referred to.

Proof reading determinations

Can I remind you all to proof read determinations before handing them down to minimise typographical errors.

Improving standards

We have seen the benefit of excellent management of hearings resulting in hearing lengths reducing and we would encourage Tribunals to continue to address matters such as parties being ill prepared, poor quality of bundles and
unnecessary time taken during hearings to assist in continuing to improve our efficiency.

**Conditions - level of supervision**
When imposing conditions, please can you ensure that you reflect on the particular level of supervision required (‘direct’ or ‘close’), explaining the reasoning for the level determined appropriate.

**MPT and IOT learning points**
We also have some learning points specific to the hearing type, please access these below.

**MPT**

**IOT**

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

\[signature\]

Dame Caroline Swift
MPTS Chair