

## **Medical Council Policy on publication of information relating to complaints.**

The Medical Council investigates complaints concerning medical doctors. This process is determined by law (the Medical Practitioners Act, 2007), and is outlined on the Council's website. The Council is committed to making the process as straightforward and transparent as possible for all concerned, and has developed this policy so that patients and doctors know what information they can access relating to their complaint.

### **Information relating to initial complaints**

The Preliminary Proceedings Committee ("PPC") considers complaints against medical doctors. (Footnote – see making a complaint)

As part of its consideration and investigation of a complaint the PPC will gather relevant information and documentation which will assist in its decision making. The PPC will generally share documentation and information with all parties to a complaint, considered for the purposes of its investigation. The PPC can exercise its discretion in providing documentation to the parties on a case by case basis, based on the individual aspects of any complaint being considered.

Reasons for decisions arrived at by the PPC regarding the outcome of a complaint will be provided to the parties to the complaint.

### **Fitness to Practise Inquiries**

If a complaint is referred for an inquiry by the PPC, the Fitness to Practise Committee will hear evidence concerning a complaint. These hearings are heard in public but can, on application by the complainant, the doctor or a witness be heard in private or partly in public partly in private.

Following the completion of an inquiry the Fitness to Practise Committee's findings (if the hearing was in public) will be placed on the Council's website. There is detailed information on the Council's procedures for publication of information about inquiries [here](#).

## **Sanction Information**

If the Fitness to Practise Committee makes a finding against a doctor, its report is put before the Council at its next meeting. The Council's task is to decide what is the most appropriate and proportionate sanction to impose on the doctor's registration.

The Council is obliged to inform the Minister of Health and the HSE about certain sanctions and can advise the public of the sanction if it believes it is in the public interest to do so. These are published on the Medical Council website.

In addition, the Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners online. The Register includes doctors with conditions attached to their name.

In addition to advising the public about sanctions the Council can also decide to publish the transcript of the FTPC inquiry, again if it believes it is in the public interest to do so. Those who participated in the inquiry may apply to the Council for a copy of the transcript. It will be a matter for the Council to decide whether it is in the public interest to release the transcript.

Any publication of information by the Medical Council is subject to compliance with Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation.