

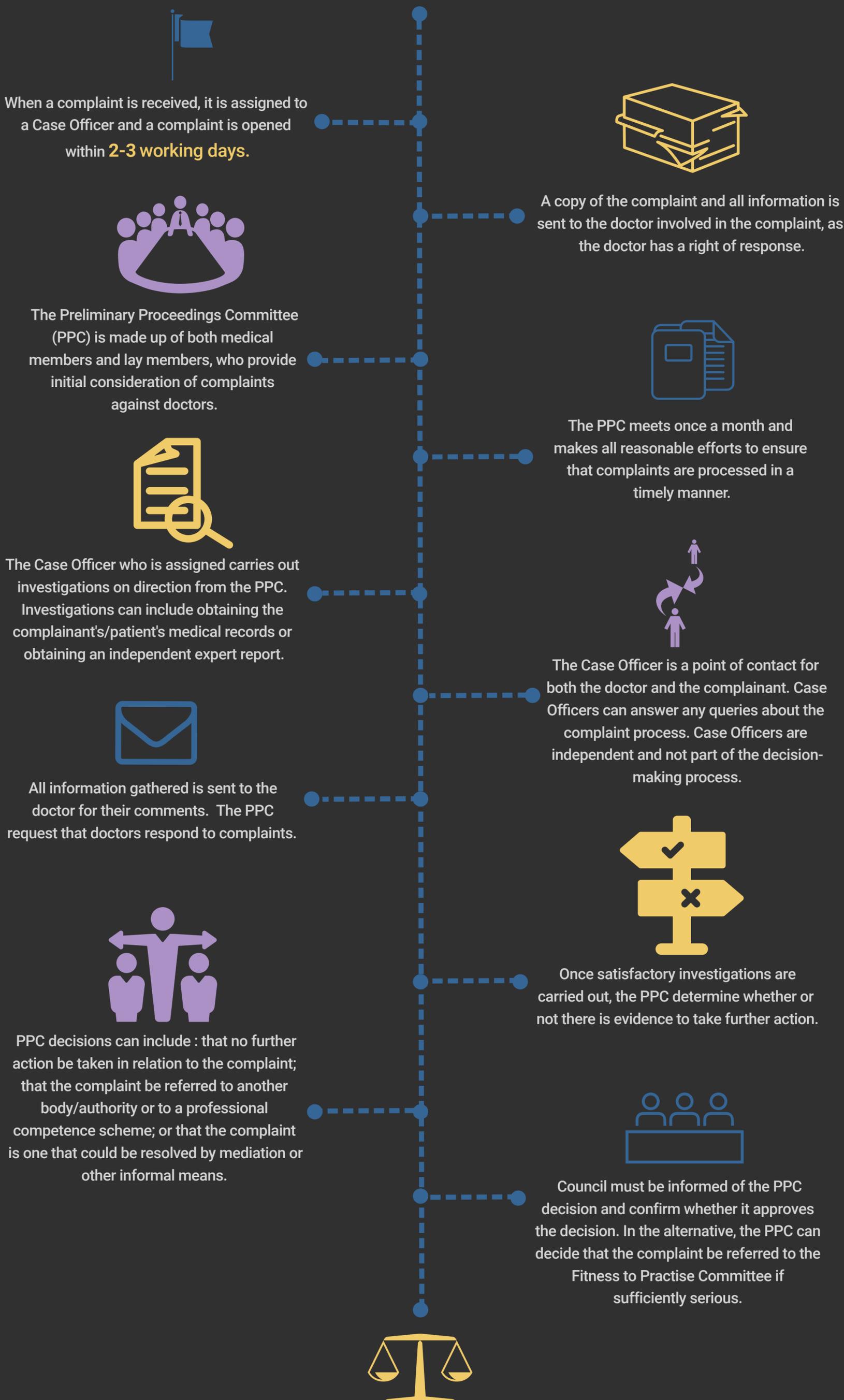
# Initial Stage of the Complaints Process

The Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors. It has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors practising in the Republic of Ireland. The procedures of the Medical Council are governed by the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.

The Medical Council handles complaints relating to a doctor's fitness to practise medicine, this procedure is again governed by the Medical Practitioners Act 2007. As part of this statutory procedure, all complaints are initially handled by the Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC). It is the role of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee to investigate a complaint, decide whether it warrants further action, and provide recommendations to the Medical Council.

The Medical Council can take action where it is believed that a doctor has serious failings in his/her practice. The Medical Council acts in the public interest, and can impose sanctions on a doctor's registration, which could restrict or remove their right to practise medicine in Ireland.

## What happens when a complaint is made against a doctor?



All complaints are processed as per the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, and in line with fair procedures and due process. This is an essential part of the Medical Council's independent regulatory function, and its duty to protect the public.

