

Locum registrar involved in Harry Richford's birth injury and ultimate death

The locum doctor, a registrar or type of junior doctor, who was on call the night that Harry was born was hired by East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust without checks of his competency, that were required by trust policy at that time.

The safety issues posed by temporary staff are a national problem, and the coroner who presided over Harry's inquest asked the government to address this issue.

The locum doctor appeared to have satisfactory references, as supplied by an agency.

Section 5. If applicable, please explain why you would not re-employ the candidate then go to Section 6.
Dr Spynoullis is hard worker, always replies to requests, he has proper management plan, takes good risk assessments, always ask for senior help when he believes that the case is #
Section 6. Do you know of any factors concerning the named locum which might give cause for concern regarding their fitness to practise in a clinical setting? If yes please provide details below.

Section 7. Please provide commentary on the locum's strengths and weaknesses.
Co-operative. Good team player. Almost nil or very few night side leave.

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He is an honest, reliable teamplayer → strengths Very conscientious this often results in wards late after his normal hour duties - weakness

But good practice is to make direct checks of competency and suitability.

Following Harry's death, the doctor was placed under [GMC restrictions](#), based on the doctor agreeing to [undertakings](#) on how he will act and report to the GMC and a designated Responsible Officer.

This is the GMC summary about the undertakings required of the locum doctor:

"Annex E – Summary

What decision has been made?

Two senior decision makers known as case examiners (one medical and one non-medical) have considered concerns raised about Dr Spyroulis' fitness to practise medicine and have decided that they can be effectively addressed by the doctor accepting undertakings.

What are undertakings?

Undertakings are an agreement between us and a doctor about the doctor's practice. They may place requirements or restrictions on a doctor's practice, or may be a commitment by a doctor to have supervision or retraining.

Undertakings must be workable, measurable, proportionate and provide the necessary safeguards to protect the public and maintain public confidence in the profession and its regulation.

Why have we made this decision?

We found that the concerns raised were serious and that we had to take action to protect the public and maintain confidence in the medical profession. We have decided that the agreement of undertakings is an effective and proportionate way to achieve this.

We could not have made this decision if there was a possibility a tribunal might have erased Dr Spyroulis from the medical register if they had considered the concerns.

What were the concerns about Dr Spyroulis?

We decided there was evidence of deficiencies in the following areas of clinical performance; recognising and working within the limits of his competence; relationships with patients; record keeping; assessment and clinical management of patients; and operative/technical skills. In reaching this conclusion we took into account concerns raised in a complaint, information provided by Dr Spyroulis' NHS body and the opinion of an appropriate expert.

What else have we considered in making this decision?

That Dr Spyroulis has:

- shown a willingness to engage and comply with undertakings to deal with the concerns set out above*
- recognised the need to remediate his practice and has provided detail of the steps he has already taken to address the shortcomings identified."*

His designated body is Health Education England and his listed Responsible Officer is Namita Kumar, Post graduate Dean HEE

The family has questioned the effectiveness of these arrangements.