

BY EMAIL

Yve Buckland
Interim Chair University Hospitals Birmingham

16 December 2022

Dear Dame Yve,

Apparently incorrect UHB FOI response on the outcomes of GMC referrals by the trust

Earlier this year, an FOI was submitted to UHB about GMC referrals by the trust, because of concerns about the manner in which UHB had referred some doctors to the GMC.

In April 2022 University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation issued an FOI response which stated that the trust had made 26 referrals to the General Medical Council (GMC) over a ten year period, none of which resulted in further action by the GMC:

<https://minhalexander.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/uhb-referrals-to-the-general-medical-council-foi-2141.pdf>

However I now see there are three decided cases on the MPTS list of recently decided cases, which reportedly arose from trust referrals which DID result in GMC action.

I list the three cases below.

Case 1

GMC reference 4530873, decided February 2022, with conditions imposed for 12 months,

The MPTS decision document states that the doctor was referred to the GMC by the trust's Deputy Chief Medical Officer in 2019.

<https://minhalexander.files.wordpress.com/2022/12/mpts-decision-dr-niall-fergusson-23-february-2022.pdf>

Case 2

GMC reference 6030578, decided April 2022, with conditions imposed for 12 months, in the context of an earlier decision to suspend

A trust statement to local media stated that the trust referred this doctor to the GMC.

<https://minhalexander.files.wordpress.com/2022/12/mpts-decision-dr-nilesh-vadher-14-apr-22.pdf>

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/ge-hospital-doctor-suspended-after-21445625>

Case 3

GMC reference 3358940, decided January 2022, resulting in erasure

GMC documents indicate that the trust referred the doctor to the GMC.

https://minhalexander.files.wordpress.com/2022/12/mpts-decision-mr-simon-bramhall_10-jan-22.pdf

<https://minhalexander.files.wordpress.com/2022/12/gmc-2020-rod-publishable-3358940-december-2020-simon-bramhall.pdf>

As it seems that some trust referrals to the GMC DID result in action, can the trust kindly review the accuracy of its FOI disclosure of April 2022, and provide a corrected response as appropriate?

Can you also kindly advise whether, since June 2022 when I wrote to the UHB Freedom To Speak Up Guardian, the trust has reviewed the quality and appropriateness of its GMC referrals.

I copy this to the Chair of Healthwatch, Preet Kaur Gill MP and the fellow whistleblower who requested the GMC referral data from the trust.

Many thanks

Minh

Dr Minh Alexander

Cc Richard Burden Chair Healthwatch Birmingham and Solihull
Preet Kaur Gill MP Birmingham, Edgbaston
Maha Yassaie