

12 August 2015

Nigel Graham

By email:

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Dear Mr Graham

Scottish Government consultation on a policy review of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation paper relating to proposed changes to the scope and rehabilitation periods provided for in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

As you may be aware, the General Medical Council (GMC) is an independent organisation that helps to protect patients and improve medical education and practice across the UK.

- We decide which doctors are qualified to work here and we oversee UK medical education and training.
- We set the standards that doctors need to follow, and make sure that they continue to meet these standards throughout their careers.
- We take action when we believe a doctor may be putting the safety of patients, or the public's confidence in doctors, at risk.

Our role is to work closely with doctors, their employers and patients, to help ensure patients receive a high standard of care, and that the trust patients have in their doctors is fully justified.

As set out at paragraphs eight and nine of the consultation paper, doctors and other categories of employment involving a particular level of trust, such as work in the childcare, healthcare and the financial sector, are exempted from the normal application of the 1974 Act as a result of secondary legislation, *The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2013*.

As a consequence, we do not believe that the proposed changes to the general system of disclosure, as currently anticipated within the consultation material would

impact on our regulatory and registration functions and so we have no specific comments in connection with this particular consultation.

However, we would appreciate being kept informed on the progress of these proposals, and any future changes to criminal disclosure legislation in Scotland that may have an impact upon our registrants and the work that we undertake in the public interest.

Yours sincerely

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