

FAO Barbara O'Neill
Medical Council of Ireland
Kingram House
Kingram Place
Dublin 2

6th may 2010

Re: Medical Council's Strategy Development Stakeholder Questionnaire

Dear Ms O'Neill

In relation to the Medical Council's Strategy Development Stakeholder Questionnaire, The Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) would like to make the following comments in relation to Questions 5 and 6.

Question 5

The IMO believe the Medical Council should prioritise the following over the next 3 years:

- Working with medical schools and other training bodies to improve the delivery of medical education and training
- Development of the professional competence process
- Addressing patient safety issues relating to medical practitioner practice

The IMO also suggest that the Medical Council should address the anomalies that have arisen in the implementation of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 such as dual registration (someone entitled to be on the specialist register but now training in another speciality; the problem arising from the transition between temporary registration and the new register) and the unforeseen consequences arising from the restrictions placed upon doctors registered on the Training Register (in that they cannot undertake clinical work outside of the post which they are registered in).

Question 6

At the IMO Annual General Meeting (AGM) from April 8th to 10th this year IMO members raised a number of issues which they would like to address with the Medical Council. The IMO would like to see these issues taken into account in the formulation of Medical Council functions and strategy.

Medical Council

10/02 All patients receiving advice, treatment, or a diagnosis in Ireland from doctors outside the state deserve that those doctors be registered by the Irish Medical Council.

Patient Information & Data Issues

10/07 The IMO calls on the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and the Medical Council to engage with the IMO so as to review current data protection legislation and its impact on effective patient care and confidentiality.

Medical Education & Training

10/50 The IMO calls on the Department of Health & Children, the Department of Finance, Irish Medical Council and other relevant bodies to investigate the branding of private HPAT courses as PreMed Courses.

As the representative body for all doctors (and a growing number of medical students), the IMO feel it would be appropriate to maintain a regular forum for communication between the Medical Council and the IMO in order to streamline issues. For example an official forum of communication is required in relation to the implementation of the competence assurance process – the IMO formerly sat on a consultative committee but there is now no official liaison on this issue. Previous meetings were productive for both organisations and it would be useful to maintain this contact.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Hetherington
Research & Policy Unit.