

Thank you for taking the time to contact the General Medical Council with your concerns regarding Dr McBride.

An Assistant Registrar has reviewed your complaint and they have decided that the concerns you have raised would not require us to restrict or remove the doctor's registration at this time, however we will forward your concerns to the doctor's Responsible Officer so that they can be used as part of the doctor's annual appraisal.

Role of the Responsible Officer

The Responsible Officer is a senior doctor who is responsible for monitoring the performance of doctors locally, and making sure doctors keep their skills and knowledge up to date.

They are involved in the doctor's Revalidation and annual appraisal, which is the process all licensed doctors are required to take part in to demonstrate that their ongoing fitness to practise medicine.

They make recommendations to the GMC about whether doctors should be revalidated, and they are duty bound to disclose any serious concerns about a doctor's practise.

Reasons for our decision

Our role is directly related to the registration of doctors. Our responsibilities are all connected to keeping the Medical Register. We oversee medical education; we give entry to the Register for those suitably qualified; we advise on good medical practice while registered; and we remove or restrict registration in response to fitness to practise concerns where there may be a risk to patient safety.

An investigation can only be opened if the concerns raised are so serious that the doctor's fitness to practise medicine is called into question to such an extent that action may be required to stop or restrict the way in which they can work to protect future patient safety.

The purpose of an investigation is to determine if or to what extent we need to restrict the doctor from working. We are not a general complaints body and we have no legal powers to intervene in or resolve matters for patients.

Whilst we are sorry to hear of the concerns which have prompted your complaint, we are not of the view that your complaint warrants us to restrict or remove the doctor's registration.

We appreciate why you have raised concerns about the doctor's comments on television. We do not support Dr McBride's comments and recognise that he should appreciate not all disabilities are visible, but we do not consider these issues are so serious that they indicate the doctor is unfit to work as a doctor.

While we are taking no further action ourselves, we do feel it is very important that these concerns are brought to the attention of the doctor's Responsible Officer. This will allow the issues to be discussed at his next Appraisal or Revalidation meeting. If the Responsible Officer has further concerns about the doctor that requires our consideration, he can be referred to us in line with agreed procedures.

What happens next?

We will write to the doctor to share your complaint. The doctor will be aware who has made the complaint, but we will not disclose your contact details to them. We will only share your contact details with the doctor's employers if they decide to investigate further at a local level.

We will send your concerns to the doctor's Responsible Officer and ask them to address your complaint directly with the doctor as part of their appraisal. We may take further action if they tell us about any serious concerns, either in relation to your complaint or more generally.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to us and for the information you have kindly provided. Your feedback is incredibly valuable to us an organisation and we are grateful to you for bringing this matter to our attention. I appreciate that making a complaint about a doctor is a stressful experience and I hope this letter helps you to understand our decision and what will happen next.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have – please get in touch using my contact details below.