

Report from NASGP meeting with General Medical Council

1st December 2005

Regents Place
350 Euston Road
London NW1 3JN

Present

Richard Fieldhouse	NASGP
Mark Selman	NASGP
Paul Buckley	GMC
Paul Greening	GMC

I thought it was a good meeting. We were there partly to find out where exactly the GMC were up to in terms of how they wanted to manage freelancers in terms of risk. It seems like they want some sort of sliding scale - those GPs who will require a 'light touch' in terms of revalidation, and those require a 'heavier touch'. Those that work within GMC Approved 'low-risk' environments will fall into the former category.

It was really good to hear from them too that it IS their remit to improve the working environments of doctors - 50% of their £60M budget goes on poor performance issues - they feel that anything they can do to reduce this would be money better spent.

The main purpose was to provide them with ideas of 'best practice' that would give freelancers more options to feel a 'lighter touch' approach. They seemed to really appreciate our account of a Sessional GP Support Team as an example. I presented this as an 'extreme' example, and I think we also gave a good argument to support those freelancers that didn't want to work as a team yet could still apply some of the ideas from SGP Support Teams.

The GMC, we were told, are very much at the beginning of this process, so it was great to be there right at the beginning.

We left it such that they will be forwarding us an outline of what it is they're after that we can then use to map onto the SGP Support Team idea.

Richard Fieldhouse
6th December 2005