

Practice Committee (Fitness to Practise Panels) decision-making process - an overview

Preliminary Stage

The Committee will consider any preliminary issues and/or applications before the hearing commences



Stage One

Are the facts proved?

The GDC brings the case and provides evidence in support of the alleged facts (what is said to have happened)

Stage Two

Is the registrant's fitness to practise impaired?

Fitness to practise can be impaired for several reasons:

- Misconduct
- Deficient Professional Performance
 - Adverse health
- Conviction/Caution for a criminal offence

Stage Two (continued)

What sanction to impose?

If the Committee decides that a registrant's fitness to practise is currently impaired, it will decide what sanction to impose, if any.

The purpose of a sanction is to protect the public interest. A sanction is not intended to punish the registrant, although it may have that effect.



The Committee needs to decide

whether each of the alleged facts has been found proved



The Committee needs to decide

whether the registrant's fitness to practise is *currently* impaired



The Committee needs to decide

The most appropriate and proportionate sanction, taking into account the circumstances of the case, the public interest and the registrant's own interests



If the facts are found not proved

The
Committee
takes no
further
action and
the case
concludes



If some or all of the facts are found proved

The Committee moves on to Stage Two



Not currently impaired

The

Committee takes no further action and the case concludes



ls currently impaired

The Committee

considers
what
sanction,
if any, should
be imposed
on the
registrant's
registration



Sanctions available

- Reprimand (warning)*
- Conditions *
- Suspension *
- Erasure

The Committee may also consider imposing an immediate order, for example, an immediate conditions or suspension order. This means the sanction will take effect straight away.

- * A reprimand should not be confused with a warning (as only the Case Examiners and Investigating Committee can issue one). It serves as public disapproval of the conduct.
- * The Committee may direct a review hearing take place before the order expires.