

## Guidance for trainees notified of a GMC investigation

Introduction

During a medical career one can become subject to a GMC investigation. One may be aware this is going to take place or a letter from the GMC may be the first indication there is an issue concerning you. This document provides guidance about what to do if you receive such a letter or are subject to a GMC investigation.

Who needs to know and why

If you are informed that you are under investigation the following people need to be informed immediately:

1. Your employer:       lead employer for specialist and GP trainees  
                                  Local Trust HR for foundation trainees.
2. Your trainers:        clinical supervisor  
                                  Educational supervisor  
                                  TPD or FPD  
                                  Head of school / Director of Medical Education

It is possible that one of your supervisors will inform all relevant parties including the Deanery but you will need to be sure of this by seeing evidence of this contact.

3. External support:    you should ask for support from your defence organisation and possibly the British Medical Association (BMA)
4. It is good practice to also inform your responsible officer (RO) the Postgraduate Dean.

The reasons you need to tell people include:

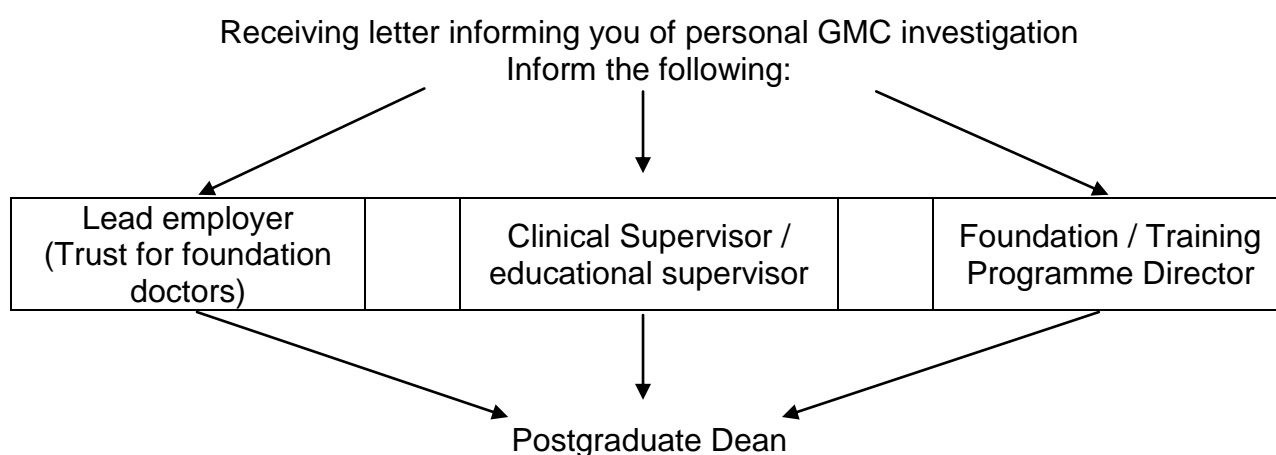
- i) getting support and guidance through the GMC processes.
- ii) getting personal support through a process that can be stressful and make one feel anxious and isolated.
- iii) Rarely you may be asked not to work or to work in a different way / capacity while an issue is investigated and your employer and trainers will need to be making this decision rapidly when you are subject to a GMC investigation.

Other things you will need to do include declaring the issue on any Form R until the process is completed and the GMC has made a decision. You may be asked at your next ARCP to have reflected on the matter and you may need to provide evidence of this reflection.

It is important to respond to all information requests as soon as you can with support from the relevant organisations and not to ignore requests or exceed deadlines without very good reason. This could make the situation more difficult and exacerbate problems.

The GMC will request information about you from your responsible officer – this is normal practice!

Receive letter informing you of personal GMC investigation



Other sources of information include the GMC website:

[http://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns/doctors\\_under\\_investigation/a\\_guide\\_for\\_referred\\_doctors.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns/doctors_under_investigation/a_guide_for_referred_doctors.asp)

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