

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper sets out details of the Commencement Order which brought certain provisions of the Health Professions Order 2001 into force on 22nd January 2003.

COMMENCEMENT ORDER

The Department has placed notices in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes relating to the commencement of provisions of the Health Professions Order 2001. The particular provisions which will come into force on 22nd January 2003 are outlined in the attached notice. Also attached is a copy of the authority signed on behalf of the Secretary of State.

In effect the commencement order covers the definition of Practice Committees, bringing them into existence statutorily so that they can undertake their policy functions as outlined in the Order.

The commencement order does not cover Schedule 1 paragraph 19, sub paragraph (6) relating to the setting up of panels to hear fitness to practice cases. This will follow at a later date and include a transitional order to include those cases already in progress under the current system.

The practical impact of this is that the Conduct and Competence Committee can commence consultations as outlined in the Order at Article 5 paragraph (3) (a).

The Council is asked to note the above.