

# THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

## THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Notes** of the second meeting of the Health Committee held at 11.00am on 16 July 2003 in Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London SE11 4BU.

**Present:** Miss M Crawford (*Chairman*)  
Miss A Foster  
Professor A J Hazell  
Mrs C McGartland

**In attendance:** Ms S Wolfskehl (*Nursing & Midwifery Council*)  
Mr J Bracken (*Bircham, Dyson, Bell*)  
Mrs A Barnes (*Director of Legal Services, HPC*)  
Mr G L Milch (*Secretary to the Committee*)

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### **03/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Received from Dr van der Gaag, Professor Sir John Lilleyman, Dr Old, Mrs Stark, Professor Waller and Mr Seale.

*As the meeting was inquorate but the agenda did not require the Committee to make formal decisions, the Chairman, with the support of the other Committee members present, determined that the meeting should proceed.*

**03/11** The meeting took the form of a discussion with Ms Wolfskehl outlining the procedures that the NMC (and its predecessor the UKCC) had employed in dealing with the ill-health of registrants for more than twenty years. The meeting was informed that the Order setting up the NMC was virtually word for word identical to that setting up the HPC. Mr Bracken elucidated all the legal points that arose.

It was emphasized that there was a need to ensure that any registered medical practitioners appointed to examine registrants must include women and representatives from black and minority ethnic communities.

In the NMC/UKCC's experience about 60% of allegations did not result in any hearing. Mr Bracken supported the view that pre-hearings between the parties involved or possibly involving the nominated panel chairman and the parties may resolve many issues.

It was generally agreed that, should a registrant be required to comply with a conditions of practice order, the conditions must be auditable, achievable and could be adhered to.

There was a question about who was responsible for paying the costs of a registrant and any support should there be a hearing. It was considered that the HPC could only meet these costs in exceptional circumstances but no allowance had been made in the budget setting process.

It was thought that Council members and partners involved in hearings would need intensive training possibly involving role play.

**03/12                    DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting had been arranged for 11.00am Wednesday 29 October 2003.