

31 July 2012

**Our Ref: IAT/ME/F12/4759**

**General  
Medical  
Council**

C M Bayne

**By e-mail only**

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Dear C M Bayne

Thank you for your e-mail of 9 July 2012 in which you ask for copies of the complaints made to the GMC about Dr Skinner in respect of the GMC hearings concerning him.

I have now had the opportunity to look at your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that we do hold the information that you seek but that I consider that an exemption set out in the FOIA applies to its release to you. The exemption that applies is:

**Section 40(2), by virtue of Section 40(3)(a)(i),** - This relates to information requested which is about a third party, and the disclosure of which would be in breach of the Principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). We consider that the disclosure of this type of information would breach the First Principle of the DPA, which requires that the processing of data is fair and lawful. We consider that the conditions in Schedule 2 of the DPA, relating to the processing of personal data, are not met and therefore the release of the information you have requested would be unlawful.

You have the right of appeal against our use of this FOIA exemption. If you wish to appeal you should set out in writing your grounds for doing so and e-mail Julian Graves, Information Access Team Manager, at [jgraves@gmc-uk.org](mailto:jgraves@gmc-uk.org). Alternatively, you can write to Mr Graves at the address given at the head of this letter. If such an appeal were unsuccessful you have a further right of appeal to the Information Commissioner. If applicable, Mr Graves will provide you with details of this further right of appeal.

Yours sincerely



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