

28 April 2015

By Email to: request-258462-6670e9c2@whatdotheyknow.com

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Dear Mr Rock

### Your information access request

Thank you for your email dated 17 April 2015 asking for further clarification of my response.

Licensed doctors have to revalidate, usually every five years, by having annual appraisal based on our core guidance for doctors, *Good medical practice* (GMP).

Revalidation is based on a doctor's whole scope of practice. We require all licensed doctors to undergo annual appraisal; and, as part of appraisal, to have reflected on, and to discuss with their appraiser, how they have complied with their professional obligations in line with GMP. In addition to the GMP framework for appraisal and revalidation may I also point you to our guidance on [supporting information for appraisal and revalidation](#), which as you will see requires doctors to discuss as part of their supporting information and significant events.

It is important for me to clarify that a recommendation for a doctor's revalidation is not solely reliant on the information an individual doctor brings to their appraisal. A recommendation to revalidate a doctor is made to the GMC by their Responsible Officer (RO).

Responsible officers (ROs) have a [statutory duty](#) to ensure designated bodies carry out appraisals and that the appraisal involves obtaining and taking account of *all* available information relating to the doctor's fitness to practise across the whole of their scope of practice. ROs also have a further statutory duty to establish and implement procedures to investigate concerns about doctors arising from any source.

Our guidance stresses the importance of the effectiveness of the systems that underpin medical revalidation, including governance (corporate and clinical) and appraisal.

You can find further information about the responsibilities of a RO in the [Responsible Officer Regulations](#). Information about how ROs make revalidation recommendations for

doctor can be found in our [recommendation protocol](#) and our guidance to organisations in the [Governance handbook](#).

### **Who to contact**

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any queries about this, or need anything further, please contact me on the details below.

If you have any queries about the way I've handled your request, please contact Julian Graves, Information Access Manager, at ~~xx~~

Yours sincerely

Courtney Brucato  
Information Access Officer  
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