

General Medical Council

6 August 2008

2nd Floor, Regents Place
350 Euston Road, London NW1 3JN

Telephone: 0845 357 8001
Facsimile: 020 7189 5001
Email: gmc@gmc-uk.org
www.gmc-uk.org

Dear [REDACTED]

At the meeting of the IOP on [REDACTED], when the case of [REDACTED] was due to be considered, you declared an interest. I enclose, for ease of reference, a copy of the transcript.

You will recall that you referred to the fact that you knew [REDACTED] who had provided a report on [REDACTED], a copy of which was included in the bundle of papers sent to you in advance of the hearing. You explained that [REDACTED] but that it did not occur to you until about 40 minutes before the start of the hearing that you should declare the interest. [REDACTED] representative submitted that you should not sit on the panel considering his case. The panel concluded that although panellists are trained and experienced and able to exercise judgment, it would be better if you did not consider [REDACTED] case as it might be perceived that greater weight had been given to the reviews expressed by [REDACTED] than the view of others. As the panel was inquorate without you, the panel decided to adjourn consideration of [REDACTED] case.

I have been asked to remind you that the Panellists' Code of Conduct (copy attached) makes it clear that panellists should be alert to the possibility of **any** [emphasis added] conflict of interest and to declare such conflicts to the office as soon as reasonably practical. Had you done so, arrangements could have been made to find another panellist to replace you and thus we could have avoided the need for an adjournment and the inconvenience caused to [REDACTED]

It is open to you, if you wish, to provide written observations as to why you did not inform the office of the possible conflict of interest. I can, however, tell you that we have decided

to take no further action on this occasion. A copy of this letter, together with any written observations you make, will be retained in our records and will be taken into consideration should a similar instance occur in future.

Yours sincerely

Graziella Oragano
Head of Panel Development Team
Direct Line: 020 7189 5156
Direct Fax: 020 7189 5103
E-mail: goragano@gmc-uk.org

ENCS