

Ms Jacqui Dougan
President
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
73 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1HL

6th February 2013

Consultation on the disclosure and publication of fitness to practise information

Dear consultee,

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is now consulting on its approach to the publication and disclosure of fitness to practise information.

On 1st October 2012, the Pharmacy (1976 Order) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 and its associated regulations came into operation.

This enables the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to utilise the full range of fitness to practise sanctions including: issue formal warnings, give advice, suspension, agree undertakings, make an interim order, place conditions on the practise of a pharmacist and remove registrants from the register.

Until October 2012 we had no power to impose sanctions other than removal from the register.

The legislative changes also make it possible for fitness to practise sanctions to be displayed on the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's online public register.

We are now seeking your views on how these sanctions are to be displayed on the online register; how we will make fitness to practise hearing decisions available on the website; and how expired fitness to practise sanctions on registrant's individual records are to be displayed on the public registers and if so, for how long.

This is very important to both members of the public and registrants as for the first time, a registrant's fitness to practise status will be annotated to their entry on the publicly available register.

We believe that public consultation is an important element in getting our policies right and we value your contribution. We are keen to hear from all stakeholders who have an interest in the future of Fitness to Practise including patients, registrants and professional organisations.

We will use your responses to help us to decide whether changes are required to the way we currently make fitness to practise information available particularly via the online register.

Consultation process

The full document and supplementary questionnaire can be accessed online on the Pharmaceutical Society NI website: <http://www.psn.org.uk/publications/consultations/>

Responses should preferably be returned electronically to Gráinne Magee grainne.magee@psni.org.uk by 1 May 2013.

I look forward to your views on the disclosure and publication of fitness to practise information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dougan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Jacqui Dougan
President of the Pharmaceutical Society NI