

INTERIM ORDERS

The Statutory Committee has the power to make an interim order on a person's entry in the Register which could suspend a person's registration or make their registration conditional. Interim orders are sought to restrict a person's registration whilst allegations regarding their fitness to practise are resolved.

An Interim Order may be made for a period of up to 18 months. If that period (or any lesser period imposed by the Statutory Committee) comes to an end and an extension is required, the Pharmaceutical Society must make an application to the High Court.

An interim order can be made at any stage of the Pharmaceutical Society's consideration of an allegation. Often, however the Statutory Committee will be asked by the Registrar or the Scrutiny Committee to consider imposing an interim order at an early stage of the fitness to practise process.

It is not the role of the Statutory Committee when considering an interim order application to make a determination on the substantive allegations or on the factual issues of the case; it is purely to decide whether an order should be made. Since the Statutory Committee is not determining facts at an Interim Orders Hearing, it does not apply a standard of proof.

There are three grounds on which an interim order can be made:

- it is necessary for the protection of members of the public;
- it is otherwise in the public interest;
- it is in the interests of the registered person.

See 'Procedures of fitness to practise committees' document for details of procedure of interim order hearing