



Education Policy team (MLA)
General Medical Council
Regent's Place
350 Euston Road
London
NW1 3JN

Date: 27 April 2017

Dear Sirs,

Re: GMC Consultation: Securing the licence to practise - introducing a Medical Licensing Assessment

I write in my capacity as Secretary to the Law Society of Scotland's Health and Medical Law Sub-committee (the committee) and in relation to the above consultation.

The committee has recently considered and discussed this and wishes to put forward the following comments and observations.

We are supportive of ensuring that medical practitioners reach a prescribed standard of competence before they enter practise, and in this regard a consistent measure of competence, as proposed, would seem the most suitable approach.

However, we would observe that care must be taken to ensure that this is applied equally to all, as it may raise the potential for discrimination. We note that the proposal is silent on the pass rate that will be applied, but we are presuming that this will be consistent across all candidates.

We further note that there is to be proposed exemptions which will be the subject of a separate consultation, as referred to at page 27 of the consultation document, and we look forward to considering this in due course. Care must be taken when introducing exemptions as this is an area which always gives rise to potential indirect discrimination and unconscious bias unless those exemptions are based on strictly objective and transparent criteria.

I hope these comments are helpful and if you have any questions, or wish to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact me on the number below

Yours faithfully

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