

**GMC Consultation: Ensuring that all licensed doctors have the necessary knowledge of English to practise safely in the UK**

**Response Form**

17 September 2013 to 10 December 2013

**Thank you for your interest in our consultation. We value the comments you are making and the views we receive will help inform the development of our proposals.**

*How to use this form*

This form needs to be used together with the consultation document.

Please indicate your answer to multiple choice questions by placing an X by your selection. You can also provide further comments in the free text field.

Please save the completed form on your computer.

Alternatively, you can respond to the consultation online through our e-consult website at <https://gmc.e-consultation.net>.

*How to submit this form*

You can email your completed form to [englishlanguage@gmc-uk.org](mailto:englishlanguage@gmc-uk.org). If possible, please email this in a Word document, not as a PDF.

You can print off this form and return it by post to the following address:

English Language Consultation  
Registration and Revalidation Directorate  
General Medical Council  
Regents Place  
350 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 3JN

If you have a question about the consultation or need help completing this form, please email [englishlanguage@gmc-uk.org](mailto:englishlanguage@gmc-uk.org) or call 0161 923 6602.

Our consultation ends on **Tuesday 10 December 2013**. Please ensure we have received your response by this date.

**Other formats**

Our consultations are also available, on request, in alternative formats such as large print or audio. If you would like to receive a copy of a consultation in an alternative format please contact us to discuss your specific requirements in more detail.

**Freedom of information**

The information you provide in your response may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which allows public access to information held by the GMC. This does not necessarily mean that your response will be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to, for example, information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box below. We will take this into account if a request for your response is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please tick if you want us to treat your response as confidential

**Data protection**

The information you supply will be stored and processed by the GMC in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used to analyse the consultation responses, check the analysis is fair and accurate, and help us to consult more effectively in the future. Any reports published using this information will not contain any personally identifiable information. We may provide anonymised responses to the consultation to third parties for quality assurance or approved research projects on request.

## Consultation questions

### Question 1

Do you think it is fair and proportionate to require the same evidence of English language capability from European doctors as international medical graduates?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.

It is unfair not to ~ we are aware some South Asian doctors feel white Europeans are treated more favourably despite their education having been wholly in English, whereas English would only be used in part in most European countries

### Question 2

Do you agree that we should not grant a licence to practise to a European doctor when they have been unable or unwilling to show they have the necessary knowledge English to work safely in the UK?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.

**Question 3**

Do you agree that it is fair and proportionate to be able to ask doctors who have no responsible officer or suitable person to demonstrate they have the necessary knowledge of English where we have a concern, as part of their revalidation?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.

**Question 4**

Do you agree that if there is a serious concern about a registered doctor's knowledge of English, we should have the power to require a doctor to undergo a language assessment?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.

Repeated requests to assessment would not be fair.

Do you agree doctors should pay the cost of a language assessment where there is a relevant fitness to practise concern?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.

Once .

### Question 6

Do you agree that 90 days is a reasonable time period for doctors to comply with a direction to undertake a language assessment?

Yes

No

Not Sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered No or Not Sure

**Question 7**

Do you agree that we should be able to indefinitely suspend doctors who fail over time to acquire the necessary knowledge of English to safely treat patients in the UK?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.

It would be unfair as they may settle in another English-speaking country and improve. Perhaps state 3 - 5 years?

**Question 8**



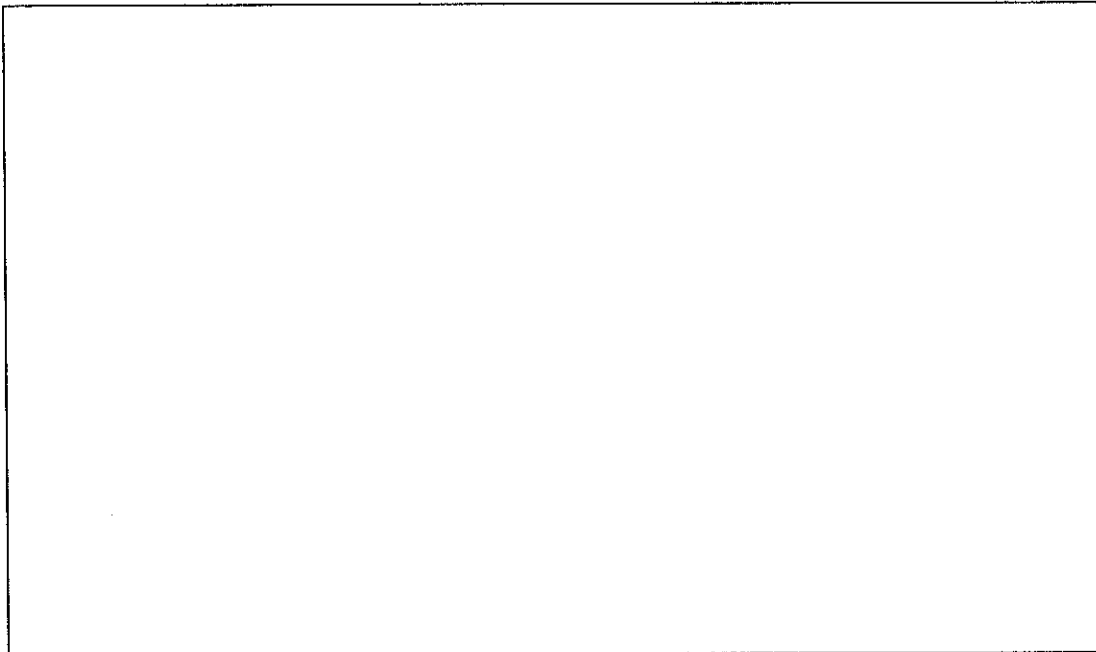
Do you agree that we should be able to ask doctors to undergo a language assessment when they apply to be restored to the register if there is a concern about their language skills?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please provide any additional comments, especially if you have answered no or not sure.



**Your details**

Name	DR A D DWARAKANATH
Job Title	SECRETARY
Organisation	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH
Address	9 QUEEN ST EDINBURGH EH2 1JR
Email	l.lockhart@rcpe.ac.uk
Contact Tel	0131 247 3608

Would you like to be contacted about GMC consultations in the future?

Yes  No

If you would like to know about upcoming GMC consultations, please let us know which areas of the GMC's work you are interested in:

- Education ✓
- Standards and Ethics ✓
- Fitness to Practise ✓
- Registration ✓
- Licensing and revalidation ✓

**Responding as an individual**

Are you are responding as an individual?

Yes

No

If yes, please complete the following questions. If not, please complete the 'responding on behalf of an organisation' section below.

Which of the following categories best describes you?

Doctor

Medical educator (teaching, delivering or administrating)

Medical student

Medical manager

Medial researcher

Member of the public

Other healthcare professional

Other (please give details)

What is your country of residence?

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

Other – European and Economic Area

Other - rest of the world

**Information about you**

To help ensure that our consultations are reflecting the view of the diverse community, please fill in the information below. Although we will use this information in our analysis of the consultation response, it will not be linked to your response.

What is your age?

Under 24

25 – 34

35 – 44

45 – 54

55 – 64

65+

Are you:

Female

Male

Do you consider yourself to have a disability according to the terms given in the Equality Act 2010\*?

Yes

No

\*The Act defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) and adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. Examples of conditions include depression, dyslexia, diabetes, hearing impairment, visual impairment, epilepsy and arthritis.

What is your ethnic origin? (Please tick one)

**Asian or Asian British**

Bangladeshi

Indian

Pakistani

Any other Asian background,  
please specify

**Black or Black British**

African

Caribbean

Any other Black background,  
please specify

**Chinese or other ethnic group**

Chinese

Any other background,  
please specify

**Mixed**

White and Asian

White and Black African

White and Black Caribbean

Any other Mixed background,  
please specify

**White**

British

Irish

Any other White background,  
please specify

**Responding as an organisation**

Are you are responding on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

No

If yes, please complete the following questions. If not, please complete the 'responding as an individual' section above.

Which of the following categories best describes your organisation?

Body representing doctors ✓

Body representing patients  
or public

Government department

Independent healthcare provider

Medical School (undergraduate)

Postgraduate medical institution

NHS/HSC organisation

Regulatory body

Other (please give details)

In which country is your organisation based?

UK wide ✓

England

Scotland

Northern Ireland

Wales

Other (European and  
Economic Area)

Other (rest of the world)

In our consultation reports we often include quotes from respondents. Are you content for the comments you submit to be attributed to your organisation in our consultation reports?

Yes

No