**To all practices Surrey and Sussex LMCs**

25th March 2020

Dear Colleagues

1. **FAQs Appraisals and Revalidation during Covid-19 emergency**
2. **GMC approach to professional issues arising during Covid-19 emergency**

I enclose a detailed set of FAQs prepared by the RCGP in relation to appraisals and revalidation during the Pandemic period; I hope that will be helpful in supplementing my earlier letter on this issue and answer any questions colleagues may have about their circumstances

The LMC has also received recurrent queries, often accompanied by a degree of unease or scepticism, about what the likely attitude of the GMC will be towards colleagues if concerns are raised about their professional practice during the unparalleled challenges that are likely to be faced by all doctors as part of their professional response to the Covid-19 emergency.

It is clear that this scepticism is underpinned by the professions reaction to the Bawa-Garba case; I would remind colleagues that it was the MPTS [Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service] Fitness to Practice Tribunal [DOI, I am an MPTS FTP Tribunal Medical member] conclusion that the appropriate sanction, given all the circumstances of the case , was of a one year suspension, after which Dr Bawa-Garba would have been able to resume her professional practice. It was the GMC, using its recently acquired power to appeal MPTS Tribunal decisions at the High Court, that made the extraordinarily misjudgement of deciding to appeal against the MPTS Tribunals decision. I believe the GMC now recognises the damage it did to its reputation as a result of this decision and the profound loss of confidence their approach caused within the medical profession.

The GMC is making huge efforts to reassure all doctors that, as is already taken into consideration by Case Examiners and MPTS Tribunals, the extreme context of the national emergency and colleagues individual circumstances will be taken into account if any concerns about a doctors practice are raised: this includes situations in which doctors work outside their areas of usual practice, or in situations where normal established procedures cannot be applied.

Further details of the GMCs approach are available at:

https://www.gmc-uk.org/news/news-archive/coronavirus-information-and-advice

I recognise not all colleagues will feel reassured, but it is difficult for the GMC, in a few weeks or via a few emails, to address a legacy of doubt and uncertainty they have largely created themselves; however, equally colleagues may feel they have proactively sought to identify and address the concerns being raised by doctors

If GPs have any other questions about any of these issues, please do not hesitate to contact the LMC.

With best wishes



Dr Julius Parker

**Chief Executive**