
Report of the Specialist Register Review: Annex B

Principles underpinning the Work of the Review

Compatibility with our regulatory purpose

1. The purpose of the GMC is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards in the practice of medicine. The registration of specialist information must be compatible with and contribute to this purpose. We should not seek to collect or register miscellaneous information which does not contribute to this purpose.
2. Registered information should be of benefit to patients, the public, the profession, employers and other regulators.

Compatibility with the law

3. Whilst accepting that the recommendations of the review may result in the need for changes to UK law affecting the registration of specialist information, any recommendations must comply with the requirements of EC law (see agenda item 4).

Principles of good regulation

4. The system of specialist registration should adhere to the principles of good regulation: proportionality, accountability, consistency, transparency and targeting. In particular, it must avoid imposing burdens on either the regulator or the regulated which are disproportionate to value added.

Transparency, accessibility and clarity

5. The registration of specialist information must be based on explicit criteria.
6. The meaning of the specialist information contained in the registers must be readily comprehensible to all those using the registers.

Fairness

7. The system must be free from unfair discrimination. If there are differences in the arrangements relating to different groups, these must be properly justified.

Targeting, practicality and efficiency

8. The system must provide for the practical and efficient use of resources both within the GMC and outside. It must avoid unnecessary duplication and take account of the impact of developments in other areas, such as revalidation.

9. The system must facilitate doctors in working within the limits of their competence, and not impose barriers which unnecessarily inhibit the flexibility of the workforce.