



Faculty of Public Health

Of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

Working to improve the public's health

Faculty of Public Health response to Secretary of State letter to the GMC

FPH welcomes the Secretary of State for Health's commitment to introducing the revalidation of doctors registered with the GMC. A proportionate revalidation scheme will be vital in helping doctors to continue to deliver high quality care and provide the best healthcare for patients and the public.

FPH recognises that concerns existed over the proposed timing of implementing revalidation processes, especially the 'early adopters' which were due to start before the analysis from the pilot sites had been completed. Successful implementation of the revalidation processes will depend on the lessons learnt from the pilots.

Extending the pilots will demonstrate the robustness of the proposed processes, while further exploring the resource implications for government and the public purse, as well as potential implication for doctors and employers. This extension will also ensure sufficient time for the specialist standards developed by the Royal Colleges and Faculties to be incorporated into the pilots. FPH will work closely with the profession, employers and the public to rigorously test the standards in public health.

FPH further welcomes the introduction of regulations on responsible officers, which we understand will shortly be laid before Parliament. FPH believes that Responsible Officers will be vital to ensuring the organisational readiness for and engagement in the revalidation process. As a designated body, FPH will be appointing a responsible officer in line with these regulations. This function will provide a route for revalidation for those public health professionals who work outside a NHS-managed environment.

FPH looks forward to continuing to work with regulators, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Departments of Health to implement a robust, proportionate and cost-effective system for revalidation.