

New interim order review scheduling process

The GPhC has made changes to improve the interim order review scheduling process. The changes came into effect on **06 January 2025**. The main change is to move to a position where registrants are informed that if they do not explicitly indicate that they wish to have their interim order reviewed at a hearing then their consent will be implied, and the review will be carried out on papers.

How the proposed change will work in practise.

The change will see the parties informed around a month before the IOR whether the GPhC considers a hearing is required or not. The registrant will then be asked if they want a hearing to take place to consider the review of the order.

Notices of Hearing will be sent 3 weeks before the week in which the IOR will be considered. The registrants are informed in previous decision letters the week in which their review is to be scheduled. The Notice of Hearing contains the actual review date and hearing format.

The registrant can request a review at a hearing up to 7 days before the review date.

Unless either party indicates a hearing is required by the deadline set, the IOR will be scheduled to take place on the papers without a hearing. The notice will specifically state to the registrant that if they do not reply or do not request a hearing to take place the matter will be reviewed on the papers. In this way, agreement to a review on the papers may arise either expressly or without being stated.

Committee oversight

The Committee dealing with the matter may decide that the order can only properly be reviewed at a hearing where they may receive oral submissions from either or both parties. The review will be scheduled as a hearing to take place the following week and details regarding attendance will be provided in a notice of hearing.

This provides an important safeguard in respect of those cases where a registrant has not responded but there is reason to believe that they may do so at a hearing or where there is information to suggest that the notice of the IOR may not actually have been received.

In order to enable the Committee to assess whether notice has been effectively served the proofs of service will be provided or their absence confirmed.

The Adjudications team has made these changes having sought legal advice on the changes to ensure they are compliant with the General Pharmaceutical Council (Fitness to Practise and Disqualification Rules) Order of Council 2010.