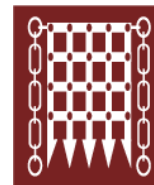


**Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for professional healthcare regulation in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 22nd October 2026

*****Taking Place Online*****



**WESTMINSTER
HEALTH FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Reforming the General Medical Council legislative framework - implications for registration, regulatory powers and fitness-to-practise**
Tim Aldrich, Assistant Director, Regulatory Reform, General Medical Council
Jennifer Agbanoma, Programme Manager, Regulatory Reform, General Medical Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 **Priorities for maintaining accountability, fairness and confidence in healthcare regulation**
Nick Tennant, Head, Legal Services, The Medical Defence Union
- 9.45 **Implementing regulatory reform - powers, oversight and fitness-to-practise processes**
implementation of the Draft GMC Order 2026 and reform sequencing across the NMC, HCPC and other professional regulators | consultation, rule-making and transitional arrangements | increased regulatory autonomy and the future role of oversight bodies | parliamentary, governmental and PSA scrutiny | clinical input, accountability and escalation across the regulatory system | thresholds for referral, investigation, and escalation in fitness-to-practise processes | early case assessment, resolution and senior decision-making | procedural fairness, evidential robustness and public protection | the handling of historic and legacy concerns | coordination between regulators, employers, medical defence organisations and local systems | proposed changes to GMC and PSA appeal powers and tribunal review | consistency, timeliness and transparency in regulatory decision-making
Katie Ratcliffe, Deputy Director, Legislative Change, Nursing and Midwifery Council
Shannett Thompson, Partner, Kingsley Napley
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, patient safety
Senior representative, think tank
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 Break
- 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 **Responding to antisemitism and racism in healthcare - implications for professional standards, regulation and organisational culture**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.25 **Adapting professional regulation for a changing medical workforce - registration, education and ongoing assurance**
Senior representative, workforce
- 11.35 **Professional regulation in a changing healthcare system - adapting standards, supporting new models of care and maintaining public confidence**
registration and assurance across registrant groups, including international medical graduates | evidential requirements, capacity and accessibility | physician associate and anaesthesia associate title changes | supervision, delegation and scope of practice | education and training needs and the roles of regulators, employers, royal colleges and providers | misconduct and impairment thresholds including sanctions, publication and consistency | workforce transformation, expanded roles and models of care | conduct in digital and non-clinical settings, including social media | clinical judgement and regulatory oversight of digital tools, data and AI | wider quality oversight following the Quality Strategy | information-sharing, learning and earlier identification of concerns | regulatory capacity and confidence among patients, the public and regulated professionals
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, education
Senior representative, healthcare leadership
Senior representative, legal
- 12.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Priorities for preventative regulation, emerging risks and the future of regulatory reform**
Melanie Venables, Director, Policy and Communications, Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum