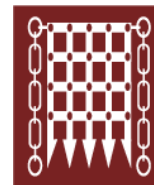


**Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for professional healthcare regulation in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 22nd October 2026

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

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
HEALTH FORUM**

- 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 **'Defending healthcare professionals in fitness to practise proceedings'**
Nick Tennant, Head of 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
Dr Marie Bryce, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Applied Medical Education and Healthcare Workforce Research (CAMERa), University of Plymouth
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, patient safety
- 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
Robyn Clark, Managing Partner, Kingswood Health Centre; and Director, Institute of General Practice Management
Susan Trigg, Partner, DAC Beachcroft
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, education
- 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