



MDU



Royal College of  
Obstetricians &  
Gynaecologists



The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Health & Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

21 July 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

### **Reform of the GMC**

Our organisations are immensely proud to represent doctors across the four nations of the UK. Their commitment to delivering patient care never ceases to command respect and admiration. In recent years, by universal consensus, they truly have gone above and beyond in what has been a time of immense challenge.

Doctors deserve our thanks. They deserve our support, and they deserve promises to be kept.

We write to you as we are deeply concerned at the news that long awaited reform of their regulator – the General Medical Council (GMC) – is to be delayed until at least 2024.

The government's 2021 consultation, *Regulating healthcare professionals - protecting the public*, set out proposals for change that were largely welcome. The consultation also made a commitment to bring forward the necessary legislation this year so we could finally see a fundamentally reformed GMC.

Doctors across the UK have waited a long time to see their regulator reformed. They deserve it. They deserve a fitness to practise process that is modern, proportionate, timely and, above all, fair. Currently, the GMC is operating under outdated legislation that disadvantages all parties; the profession, patients and the GMC itself.

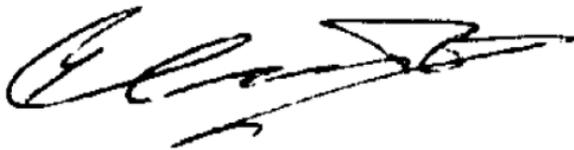
Any further delay, having been promised imminent reform, will be seen by the profession as a broken promise.

We urge the government to keep its promise to patients and doctors, to reform the GMC without delay. We all stand ready to work with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) over the coming months to ensure the legislation can be published by the end of the year.

It is time to move forward and deliver an up-to date regulatory system. Regulation needs to deliver for doctors, so they can deliver for patients.

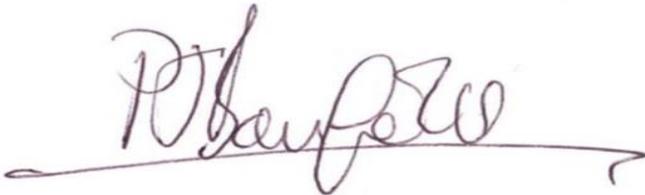
We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Lee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr Matt Lee**

Chief Executive, The Medical Defence Union [MDU]

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Phil Banfield', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Professor Phil Banfield**

Chair of Council, The BMA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Morris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Mr Edward Morris**

President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists



**Professor Steve Turner**

Registrar, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health



**Dr Naru Narayanan**

President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association [HCSA]



**Dr Fiona Donald**

President, Royal College of Anaesthetists