



The Association of Directors of Public Health

Members Briefing on GMC Guidance on Insurance, Indemnity and Medico-legal support

ADPH has received enquiries from members on how this guidance applies to DsPH working for local government. ADPH corresponded with the GMC when the guidance was being prepared to ensure it properly reflected the position of DsPH. The guidance can be found here: http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/information_for_doctors/insurance_and_indemnity.asp

The GMC confirmed at the time that as long as the local authority insurance covered the work undertaken by the DPH the doctor would be compliant with the regulations¹.

You may want to consider whether you need to take out additional personal insurance or indemnity for work that arises out of your local government employment, but which is not covered by their indemnity arrangements. Such work includes completing cremation certificates and insurance claim forms, or providing medico-legal reports.

There are other reasons for taking out (personal) professional indemnity, such as access to personal legal advice and support, but these go beyond the requirement of the regulations.

It is the responsibility of individual doctors to ensure there are appropriate insurance or indemnity arrangements in place. The regulations only apply to doctors, which is of course an anomaly for DsPH.

ENDS

Association of Directors of Public Health

October 2016

¹http://www.gmcuk.org/Licence_to_Practise_and_Revalidation_Regulations_2015_18_03_2015.pdf_61546957.pdf