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Dear Harry

Medical Council of New Zealand: Review

I would like again to thank you and Mike Andrews for the CHRE review undertaken of our policies, processes and performance as a medical regulator.

At its August 2010 the Medical Council of New Zealand (Council) considered your report. Council members were delighted with the report and found its content to be extremely useful in identifying where positive changes to our practices can be made. At this meeting the Council resolved to undertake some immediate changes to our policies and processes. These steps are outlined below.

Openness and transparency

- Expanding the information available to the public to include:
 - The names of doctors who have been suspended or removed.
 - A link on the online register to any adverse findings against the doctor issued by the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (unless a name suppression order is in place).
 - Reference in the online register to any education or recertification programme initiated as a result of a Council process.
 - Clear definitions to assist members of the public to understand what different conditions mean.
- Notifying informants of decisions made in relation to their concern.
- Codifying the common practice of informing employers about voluntary undertakings into policy.
- Publishing on the Council's website accreditation reports from hospital visits and BAB accreditation processes.

Public engagement

- Issuing media releases to advise the public of new statements and resources.

Other matters

- Referring doctors who have been through a competence or health process but who continue to perform and behave poorly to a conduct process.
- Developing a more transparent mechanism for auditing and quality assuring decisions made by staff and committees.

The Council has also resolved to review your further suggestions again once these initial changes have been incorporated into our practice, to determine whether to make any additional changes.

Once again, I would like to offer the Council's gratitude to you and your staff for the comprehensive and insightful performance report, and for all of the assistance you provided this office during the review process.

Finally the Council is happy for the report and my letter to be published on your website with effect from Thursday 21 October 2010.

Yours sincerely



Philip Pigou
CHIEF EXECUTIVE