

PE1627/P

General Medical Council submission of 16 January 2018

Thank you for your letter asking for more information on safeguarding training for general practitioners in relation to children and young people. This is an important issue and I note with sadness the tragic events leading to the petition you have received.

You asked three questions:

- What mandatory training exists for general practitioners in relation to safeguarding children and young people?
- What percentage of general practitioners in Scotland have undertaken this training?
- Whether general practitioners have sufficient capacity to undertake continuous professional development activities such as training to safeguard children and young people, alongside their day to day role?

I should explain that as the medical regulator, the General Medical Council helps to protect patients and improve medical education and practice in the UK by setting standards for students and doctors. We support doctors in achieving (and exceeding) those standards, and take action when they are not met.

I have set out some detailed information for the Committee below in relation to the requirements we set for medical education and training. Through our publication [Outcomes for graduates](#) we describe the knowledge, skills and behaviours that all newly qualified doctors must be able to show. The Committee may be interested to know that we are currently consulting on a new version of these Outcomes, which gives greater prominence to the requirement for doctors to take steps to safeguard children.

However, we do not collect the information required to be able to say how many GPs in Scotland have undertaken safeguarding training or their capacity to do so. We do require doctors to undertake continuous professional development (CPD) as part of the revalidation process, however this is necessarily high-level and does not specify the types of CPD activity that licensed doctors must undertake each year.

I hope the information provided below is helpful to the Committee. I am committed to making sure we work productively with our partners in Scotland, including the Scottish Parliament, and would be happy to provide any further information we can do to support your work.