

29/03/2019

Dear Doctor,

We have been instructed by the Medical Council to forward correspondence (attached) to all Registered Medical Practitioners enrolled on our Professional Competence Scheme (PCS). This letter describes **important changes** to the operation of the scheme that will be phased in over the next year and will come in to full effect in **May 2020**.

The first phase of this will be during the **May 2019** retention of registration process with the IMC, you will be asked to declare (by selecting Yes/No)

- *'I am enrolled in a professional competence scheme in Ireland and have paid my Scheme enrolment fee for the scheme year 2019-2020' [YES/NO]*

And you will also now be asked:

- *I am maintaining professional competence pursuant to CPD requirements [YES/NO].*

The second and third option under Question 1 will remain the same:

- *I am based overseas, and don't intend to practice medicine in Ireland for more than 30 days this year, and will be maintaining my professional competence overseas [TICK BOX]*
- *I am, or will shortly be, registered in the Trainee Specialist Division [TICK BOX]*

In the **May 2020** retention of registration process with the IMC, you will be asked to declare

- *My annual Statement of Participation as of May 2020 demonstrates that I am meeting my ongoing maintenance of professional competence requirements.' [YES/NO]*

The Medical Council will be monitoring your **compliance** with CPD requirements as defined in the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 in 2020.

#### Guidance regarding your responses for 2020:

You should only **select YES** if your annual statement of participation for 2019-2020 clearly states that you have met **all** the professional competence requirements set out in detail in our online guide (20 credits each in the external and internal categories, a minimum of 5 in the personal learning category and a total of at least 50 CPD credits). You are also expected to have completed an **Audit** relevant to your scope of practice during the 2019-2020 PCS year.

You **should select NO if you did not meet** the minimum requirements in the year ending 30 April 2020. If you select No, the Medical Council will confirm this with you and have stated that they will direct you to contact CAI PCS for advice and support on becoming compliant this year.

If you were ill, or on maternity leave and could not meet the requirements, we advise that you **should tick NO** as, while there are extenuating circumstances, you are **not** compliant with the requirements. If you are unable to meet your requirements because of an absence from practice of three months or greater due to overseas practice, certified sick leave, maternity or carers or parental or bereavement leave, please contact us at ([professionalcompetence@coa.ie](mailto:professionalcompetence@coa.ie)) and we will arrange for you to complete a separate declaration to this effect before the end of the PCS year and annotate your Annual Statement of Participation.

#### Advice and Support:

Your status is visible on your PCS dashboard ([anaesthesia.ie](http://anaesthesia.ie)). If you wish for advice on your status, please contact CAI **before completing** the Annual retention process.

If you require further advice on the operation of the Professional Competence, Scheme or support in meeting the requirements, please contact us at ([professionalcompetence@coa.ie](mailto:professionalcompetence@coa.ie)) or consult our website ([anaesthesia.ie](http://anaesthesia.ie)). If you have any queries about the annual retention process or other matters relating to your registration, you should contact the Medical Council directly.

While the Medical Council have indicated to us that they do not intend to take regulatory action against those who truthfully declare that they are not compliant with the requirements, you will be in breach of your obligations under the Medical Practitioners Act and this could result in regulatory action against you.

Doctors who make a false declaration in the annual retention process may be subject to regulatory action which could result in sanction, limitations on your practice, suspension or erasure from the register. Once the Medical Council initiate regulatory action, we will not be able to assist you with this process and we advise that you respond to all communications from the Medical Council with the benefit of appropriate legal advice.

The College of Anesthesiologists of Ireland and the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies are engaging with the Medical Council in relation to the impact of these upcoming requirements and will update you immediately if there are any material changes.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Miriam Langdon  
Chair PCS Committee