



British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

BAPIO condemns GMC suspension of Dr Arora on a charge of asking for a laptop

BAPIO has written to CEO of the General Medical Council (GMC) expressing deep concern about the decision by its legal wing, the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS), to suspend Dr Arora for a month on a frivolous charge of asking for a 'promised' laptop.

In a published report by MPTS on 12 May 2022, the verdict found her guilty of 'dishonesty' when the Manchester based private company Mastercall brought a case against her. The case rests on Dr Arora stating that the Medical Director has promised her a work laptop which he denied was the case.

It is astonishing that the Medical Director referred this case to the GMC. Ordinarily, these cases are resolved locally, without going to the GMC. However, the outcome from the Tribunal is one that was least expected. The doctor is to be suspended for a month, unless she appeals.

The case demonstrates how the GMC has once again failed its ethnic doctors. This will blight the doctor's life for the rest of her professional career. One word, one occasion, in a career of 30 years devoted and unblemished practice in the NHS!

The sentence, if unchallenged, will have considerable implications for her future career. We have therefore written to the GMC demanding a review of the case and its processes and highlighting the lack of progress it is making in dealing with complaints and offences by BAME doctors who are disproportionately suspended and erased from its register of practice.

Dr Ramesh Mehta, President of BAPIO, states "It beggars belief that a doctors can be suspended for apparently misusing the word 'promise'. GMC lately has been making progress in acting with more compassion and being proportionate in dealing with BAME doctors compared to their white counterparts, but we seem to be taking one step forward and two backwards."

Dr JS Bamrah, Chair of BAPIO, is similarly incredulous about this MPTS decision. "This case should have been nipped in the bud right at the outset. You would have thought that Mastercall would have wanted the doctor to work safely and to have a work laptop. It exposes something about the organisation and also shows us how little progress has been made by the GMC over its disciplinary processes."

"This is the last thing we need, at a time of a severe medical workforce crisis in general practice" says Professor Parag Singhal, Honorary Secretary. "The danger is that migrant

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doctors are losing their faith in their regulator and this has long term implications for our NHS which is already under unprecedented strain.”

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Notes for Editors

British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) is a non-political, national, voluntary medical organisation that supports members and other healthcare professionals through education, training, policy making, and advocacy work. Since its inception in 1996, BAPIO has actively promoted the principles of diversity and equality. Over the years the Association has grown in stature and influence. It is represented through active Divisions covering all the English Regions as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is now one of the largest organisations of its type in the country. BAPIO is committed to ensuring that the NHS provides the best patient outcomes. By promoting professional excellence and leadership, BAPIO adds value in enhancing the skills of the medical workforce. BAPIO also contributes to the cause of promoting access to better health care globally and responds to aid victims of natural disasters in the world.

Further information

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