

13 January 2025

In reply please quote: E2-1955ES

Private: for addressee only

Mr Luke Leighton

Sent via email only: luke.leighton@gmail.com

3 Hardman Street
Manchester M3 3AW

Email: gmc@gmc-uk.org
Telephone: 0161 923 6602

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Dear Mr Leighton

Thank you for taking the time to contact us with your concerns about an identified Accident and Emergency (A&E) doctor, Dr Tina Hillman, Dr Caroline Law, Dr Samatha Green, Dr Mahesh Thagadur Channaveeregowda and unnamed GPs. We appreciate that the circumstances surrounding your complaint must have been distressing.

We have carefully considered all of the information you provided. However, we have not been able to identify any issues which would call into question the doctors' fitness to practise medicine, to the extent that we might need to take action on their registration.

Our Role

We work with doctors, physician associates (PAs), anaesthesia associates (AAs), those they care for and other stakeholders to support good, safe patient care across the UK. We set the standards doctors, PAs, AAs and their educators need to meet, and help them achieve them. If there are concerns these standards may not be met or that public confidence in doctors, PAs, or AAs may be at risk, we can investigate, and take action if needed.

The purpose of an investigation is to determine if or to what extent we need to restrict the doctor from working. We are not a general complaints body and we have no legal powers to intervene in or resolve matters for patients.

Our Decision

The GMC forms part of a wider network of medical regulation and many complaints are better addressed through local channels in the first instance. This is because we do not have the power to intervene in care or to provide an explanation as to what has happened. Our role only allows us to

consider the doctor's fitness to practise as an individual on the medical register and whether they pose a risk to future patient safety. Whilst we acknowledge many complaints and experiences raised with us have been undoubtably distressing for those involved, a patient being dissatisfied with the service a doctor has provided would not automatically become a fitness to practise issue.

You describe yourself as a high-functioning autistic individual. We received initial concerns about care you received when you attended the Accident and Emergency (A&E) department the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust on 26 October 2024. You consider that your health concerns, which included a reported bleed on the brain and cerebral palsy symptoms were being dismissed, after your GPs had also previously dismissed your concerns and had not made necessary referrals. You report that you suffered an assault and the incident was reported to the Police.

You say you were seen by an unidentified doctor in A&E on 26 October 2024 who you state was rude in their interactions with you when they dismissed your health concerns. You report that the doctor referenced that they had previously seen you before and explained that as you had been discharged, you would require a GP referral if you wanted to be seen in hospital.

We are told that you requested the doctor's GMC number, which they would not provide, which led you to conclude that the individual may not have been a doctor and was impersonating one. You report that you were so affected by the doctor's actions and possibly those of others, you classified this as assault and reported the matter to the Police. You have cited case law that psychological and physiological harm caused by incident can equate to grievous bodily harm (GBH). Whilst you have raised the possibility that the individual could have been impersonating a doctor, correspondence from the Trust did confirm that this individual is a doctor.

We are sorry to hear of your concerns that you felt the doctor was dismissive of your symptoms. We have not seen any information to suggest that the doctor's advice to you was that you had discharged from hospital, that you did not require A&E assistance at that time and if you wished to be seen in hospital they would require a GP referral. Whilst we appreciate you are in disagreement with the doctor, there is nothing to suggest that the doctor's actions in respect of this were not provided in good faith or without clinical reasoning.

The doctor is then said to have refused providing their GMC number to you when you had asked for this. We note that this exchange may have been uncomfortable for both parties due to the situation, however, we do not consider the doctor's refusal to provide their GMC number raises a concern so serious that it would warrant action against their registration.

You also have concerns that the doctor's actions amounted to an assault because it worsened your symptoms and affected your ability to walk safely, citing what you considered to be relevant case law for this. We contacted the Police about this matter and they confirmed that they are not investigating this. Whilst we do not wish to undermine your concerns, we do not consider that the doctor's actions in relation to this situation raise fitness to practise concerns.

You have also raised concerns about Dr Hillman, Dr Law and Dr Green who are GPs at Atherley House Surgery. You say that the doctors along with others at the surgery, were responsible or partly

responsible for the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA) revoking your driving licence after the doctors falsely reported that you suffer from a medical condition or conditions which you do not have. You say you were forced to sign certain forms in relation to this and declare that your autism required a DVLA assessment, following which your driving licence was revoked.

You also consider that you have suffered an assault or assaults by Dr Hillman and Dr Green, which appear to be in reference to psychological torture rather than not physical violence. It also appears that you have requested that the GMC report the matter to the Police or other relevant bodies.

It would be most appropriate for you to report these matters to the Police as they are best placed to investigate criminal matters. As a rule, the GMC are generally unable to report concerns to organisations and relevant bodies on behalf of complainants. It would, therefore, be appropriate for you to raise this aspect of your complaint with the Police. You can contact the Police by calling 101 or 0800 555 111 or via the following link: [Contact us | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](https://www.police.uk). If the Police have any concerns about either doctor, they can refer them to us in line with agreed procedures.

You consider that the doctors have been responsible or partly responsible with diagnosing you as having a certain medical condition or conditions which you dispute that you have. Although we have not been informed what this is, we note other correspondence provided to us may suggest that you have been provided treatment in relation to your mental health.

This appears to be an instance where you disagree with the opinion of your doctors which does not automatically raise fitness to practise concerns. There is no information to suggest that whatever opinion or involvement Dr Hillman, Dr Law or Dr Green had in this matter, it was not provided in good faith and it does not, therefore, raise concerns.

Linked to this matter is that Dr Hillman, Dr Law and Dr Green are responsible or partly responsible for forcing you to send fabricated information to the DVLA regarding your health, which subsequently led to the DVLA revoking your driving licence. We are sorry to hear of this concern and we do not wish to undermine your concerns with regards to this, however, we consider that this is likely linked to your disagreement with the clinical opinion of your treating doctors. As it would appear that the doctors, and possibly others, felt it was relevant for this information to be declared to the DVLA, it would be appropriate to either obtain patient consent to do so or in some instances if consent were not obtained, such as a patient either refused or was incapable of understanding the advice, that they may be in a position to provide health information themselves. Whilst we have limited details about what information has been shared, there is no supporting information to suggest that Dr Hillman, Dr Law or Dr Green coerced you into providing dishonest information to the DVLA. Whilst we consider that it is possible that communication between the doctors and/or others with you may arguably and subjectively have been poor, we do not consider that this raises fitness to practise concerns.

With regards to having your licence revoked, the decision to suspend a licence ultimately lies with the DVLA. The fact that you may disagree with a doctor's medical opinion or are unhappy with the DVLA's decision to suspend the licence, does not mean that the doctor has specifically done anything

wrong. If you are unhappy with the decision, you may wish to ask the DVLA for a second opinion or to appeal the decision.

As part of your complaint you have made reference to a number of unnamed GPs who are said to have been dismissive of your concerns and did not make what you consider would have been a necessary referral to the neurology team.

You have not provided any supporting information which suggests that the failure of the GP or GPs to make a referral to the neurology department or other suitable action would raise fitness to practise concerns. Whilst we note that you disagree with your treatment and care, this does not require GMC action and we would advise you to seek further opinion from your treating clinicians if you continue to believe you require treatment.

You have also provided assorted correspondence in relation to Thagadur Channaveeregowda who you refer to as Dr Thagadur, who appears to be a psychiatrist at Antelope House, a mental health facility which is part of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. You have raised concerns about the treatment and care provided by Dr Thagadur, however, we have no information to support that there are concerns about your care other than your disagreement with aspects of it. The GMC is unable to intervene in ongoing treatment.

You also say that Dr Thagadur is in some way involved in causing harm to you which you believe could be a criminal matter. The GMC is unable to determine whether incidents are criminal or not as this would be a matter for the Police to determine.

Other organisations you can contact

We believe that the issues you have raised would be better considered at a local level through the NHS complaints process. This is because local providers are often better placed to provide the explanation or apology that a patient might require. Local providers are also in a better position to assess whether or not there are any wider issues of concern that need to be addressed.

Therefore, you may wish to raise your concerns about your GPs with the practice manager at the surgery if you have not already done so. Or alternatively, if you prefer, you may wish to consider escalating these to your local Integrated Care Board (ICB), the body that is responsible for the provision of health services in your area. You can find your local ICB using the following link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/find-your-local-integrated-care-board/>.

We understand you have raised your concerns about the unidentified A&E doctor with the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust which we consider to be the most appropriate course of action to take. You may also wish to raise your concerns about Dr Thagadur with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust who you can contact at:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Concerns and Complaints Team

7 Sterne Road

Tatchbury Mount

Calmore
Southampton
SO40 2RZ
Tel: 023 8231 1200

Email: complaints@southernhealth.nhs.uk

Website: <https://hiowhealthcare.nhs.uk/your-care-and-information/how-to-raise-a-concern>

If you are not happy with the healthcare providers response the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) may be able to offer you their advice and assistance. The role of the PHSO differs from that of the GMC and enables them to undertake independent investigations into complaints where the NHS have not acted properly or fairly or have provided a poor service. They can be contacted at:

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Citygate
Mosley Street
Manchester
M2 3HQ

Tel: 0345 015 4033

Email: phso.enquiries@ombudsman.org.uk

Website: ombudsman.org.uk

Should the NHS or PHSO find that there have been failures on the part of any doctor, then please do contact us again providing us with the full investigation findings. This is so we can consider what, if any, action might be required on our part in respect of their registration.

In your complaint correspondence, you have also raised concerns about your overall healthcare experience which we recognise you are unhappy with. You have also raised concerns about other individuals, which may include healthcare professionals who are not registered with the GMC. Unfortunately, these do not appear to be issues we can assist you with. This is because we can only consider concerns about individual doctors on our list of registered medical practitioners.

You may wish to raise your concerns with the appropriate healthcare provider or the PHSO as detailed above. If you believe there has been any criminal activity, you should report this to the Police.

Please note we cannot contact these organisations for you, act on your behalf or become involved in any of their processes.

Our Independent Support Service

We recognise that raising concerns about a doctor can be a stressful experience. If you feel that you would like any support, you might wish to speak to our **Independent support service (ISS)**. They are a free, confidential and independent telephone support service provided by Victim Support. You can contact them by calling **0300 303 3709** and find more information on their service here:

www.victimsupport.org.uk/gmcnmc. Please be aware that the ISS are unable to discuss or advise on decisions made by the GMC.

Reviewing Our Decision

We have an internal review mechanism ('Rule 12') which lets us look at certain decisions again. Attached is an FAQ document which explains more about the process.

We will only ever review a case if there is a serious mistake with the decision which, if corrected, could lead to a different outcome. Or if there is significant new information that we haven't seen before, which might have led to a different decision. We would then only review if at least one of those grounds was met and a review is necessary to protect the wider public. Any review needs to start within two years of the original decision, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

To request a review, please complete the attached questionnaire and return either via post or email, using the address provided on the form. Please note that we can only review decisions made about fully identifiable doctors on our List of Registered Medical Practitioners (LRMP).

Please be assured that our decision is not, in any way, meant to negate or minimise the upset and concern caused to you as a consequence of the matters you have outlined. However, we can only take action when we believe a doctor is not fit to practise and we do not consider this to be the case.

Yours sincerely

The Enquiries Team

On behalf of the Assistant Registrar

The General Medical Council

3 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3AW

Direct Dial: 0161 240 8216

Email: fpddeisions@gmc-uk.org

Website: www.gmc-uk.org

Enc: Rule 12 FAQ document