



**Media Release
14 December 2009**

PMETB: new improved application experience

The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board has implemented a raft of changes to its certification processes and documentation in a continued drive for improvements for certification applicants.

The latest of these is the launch of a new Article 14 (CESR) briefing pack which has been distributed to all UK postgraduate deaneries. The pack is designed to be used as a resource to assist deanery staff who have been assigned to support Specialty and Associate Specialist Grade (SASG) doctors to apply for specialist registration. The Article 14 application route provides a pathway for successful eligible applicants to enter the specialist register and work in substantive consultant appointments.

The pack comprises a collection of helpful examples and guidance to further familiarise postgraduate deanery staff with the Article 14 (CESR) application process. Specifics include sample forms and decision letters to successful and unsuccessful applicants. It also contains forms setting out what applicants' referees will be asked to comment on when completing a structured report and a CD hosting a PowerPoint presentation with speaking notes, purpose-built for a SASG audience.

Deputy Chair of the BMA SASG Committee, Mr Raj Nirula, said he was pleased with this show of SASG support from PMETB: "The briefing pack provides accessible and well written resource material. Even I have learnt a few new things and will be passing this knowledge on in my own Article 14 presentations to SASG doctors."

Other recent improvements for Article 14 applicants include a redesigned application form which allows text fields to be filled in electronically. The new format means applicants can save and revisit their form as they make progress. The layout also reflects the GMC's recently amended four domain *Good Medical Practice* structure, providing a common approach to this and future revalidation requirements.

PMETB's online Article 14 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have also been reviewed, updated and expanded. The FAQs cover eligibility, application processes, administration, evaluation processes and more. The updated structure and content combined are designed to offer applicants a streamlined access to all they need to know.

The on-going improvements come as a direct response to feedback from applicants and stakeholders received at events including the BMJ Careers Fair and BMA workshops held in October.

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Notes to editors

- PMETB is a statutory body, responsible for overseeing and promoting the development of postgraduate medical education and training for all specialties, including general practice, across the UK. It assumed its statutory powers on 30 September 2005 taking over the responsibilities of the Specialist Training Authority of the Medical Royal Colleges (STA) and the Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice (JCPTGP).
- The vision that PMETB has set itself is to achieve excellence in postgraduate medical education, training, assessment and accreditation throughout the UK to improve the knowledge, skills and experience of doctors and the health and healthcare of patients and the public.
- In response to the outcomes of Sir John Tooke's MMC Inquiry, the Department of Health has announced that PMETB and the GMC should be merged from 2010. This will provide a single seamless regulatory structure for medical education from medical school through to postgraduate education and training and continuous learning until retirement.
- Graham Smith has specialised for many years in taking on shorter-term appointments at Chief Executive or equivalent level and has recent experience in medical education. He was chief operating officer for Modernising Medical Careers at the Department of Health during 2008 – including involvement in operational issues such as recruitment as well as policy arising from Tooke. Later in 2008 and into early 2009 he was chief executive and registrar of the Nursing and Midwifery Council where he led the work responding to a critical report from the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and the introduction of a wholly appointed Council. In both of these roles he built up working relationships with the General Medical Council and the Department of Health's regulation branch.