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Private & Confidential

Tony Coley
Industrial Relations Officer
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Star Lane House
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Dear Tony

Dr Jane Barton

Thank you for your letter of 10th October re Jane Barton. I appreciate the wording of the letter which you received from the Health Authority was not of the best.

I would have preferred to note that the Performance Screening Group had matters drawn to their attention which necessitated them considering whether there was any case to be considered under the remit of the agreed procedure. After considering what they had been told they decided there was nothing further which needed to be done and the matter was not proceeded with.

The difference here is that there would be no indication of getting in touch with the GP, unless there was something there which appeared prima facie to be worthy of investigation. To set hares running when there is nothing which can relevantly be considered by the group, is only going to add unnecessarily to the distress of the practitioner. I do agree with you that in the event of there being any continuation of the process, or there appears to be something which needs to be addressed, then it would be wholly appropriate to talk to the individual concerned.

As this was not the case in this instance, you understand why it was not felt necessary to communicate this to Jane.

I would also point out that there is nothing to stop any matter being referred to the Professional Performance Screening Panel, even if it is something outside the normal GP's normal sphere of activity, if it bears upon their professional abilities as a doctor per se. Since in this case it was felt

not appropriate to call into question any of her abilities as a general practitioner, I believe correctly that the matter was totally dismissed.

Hope this clarifies things.

Look forward to continuing to work with you.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Dr R I Button
Chief Executive