

Standard and special directions

Fitness to practise fact sheet

The information in this fact sheet is technical and relates to how hearings are conducted. You may wish to discuss the contents of this fact sheet with your representative to better understand it. Your case manager can help you understand the information, but they cannot give you any advice or tell you what you should do.

What has happened?

As part of its active case management procedures, the Conduct and Competence/Health Committee has issued standard directions for the conduct of all hearings in order to ensure that cases are dealt with quickly, fairly and effectively.

What are standard directions?

As part of its active case management procedures, the Conduct and Competence/Health Committee has issued standard directions for the conduct of all hearings in order to ensure that cases are dealt with quickly, fairly and effectively.

The standard directions are the 'default' directions which will apply to your case, unless, because the case raises particularly complex issues, you or we ask the panel to vary them.

The purpose of the directions is to ensure that documents are exchanged between parties in good time for the hearing, and that other steps that need to be completed before the hearing happen on time. The directions also set out a process which allow the parties (you and the HCPC) to agree what facts, documents and witness statements can be admitted without further proof or the need to call witnesses.

If HCPC proposes to make use of those procedures, we will contact you at a later stage in the process to let you know. You may also make use of those procedures and, if you wish to do so, we can provide you with further information about how to do so. A copy of the standard directions can be found on our **website**.

What are special directions and how can they be requested?

If there are any special circumstances in this case which you think might mean that the standard directions are not appropriate, you can ask the Panel to make special directions.

No special form is needed, and your request can simply be made by letter or email setting out the special directions you are seeking and the reasons for doing so.

Although applications can be made in writing, the panel may hold a preliminary hearing to consider such an application. If a preliminary hearing is held you will be informed of the date, time and venue of the hearing. The panel may also make special directions without an application being made by either you or the HCPC if it considers that it needs to do so because of the nature or circumstances of the case. In that event a copy of any special directions will be sent to you.