

## **Screeners**

### **Executive Summary and Recommendations**

#### **Introduction**

At its March 2004 meeting Council agreed in principle to the appointment of screeners. In order to determine whether in fact there was a need to appoint screeners it was decided that members of the Investigating Committee would, on an experimental basis, “screen” the allegations being received by HPC. If Screeners were appointed they would be able to refer allegations directly to the Health Committee or Conduct and Competence Committee without the Investigating Committee offering registrants an opportunity to comment on the allegation and determine whether there was a case to answer.

In June 2004 the Investigating Committee passed a resolution that the temporary screening of allegations should be brought to an end on that grounds that almost no allegations were being “screened out”. The Committee also felt that it was in the interests of justice for all allegations to be considered by an Investigating Committee Panel and was concerned that that process should not be bypassed.

#### **Decision**

The Council is asked to ratify the decision taken by the Investigating Committee that the experimental screening process should be ended and that, for the time being, screeners should not be appointed.

#### **Background information**

None

#### **Resource implications**

None

#### **Financial implications**

By removing the use of screeners the costs of fitness to practise hearing will be slightly reduced.

#### **Background papers**

None

#### **Appendices**

None