

Health Professions Council
Council 5th July 2007

**CAWT – MAJOR INCIDENT/CROSS-BORDER EMERGENCY
PLANNING PROJECT**

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) is a cross border partnership formed in 1992 with the objective of cooperating to improve the health and social wellbeing of the resident populations in the border region of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Additional information is available on the CAWT website www.cawt.com.

CAWT has drafted a range of proposals outlining how regulated health professionals and their respective regulators would respond in the event that a major incident was to occur in the border region. A copy of the proposals are attached for reference.

The General Medical Council (GMC) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) have agreed to the proposals.

Decision

The Council is requested to approve that the Health Professions Council establishes appropriate arrangements with CAWT via an exchange of letters.

Background information

None.

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

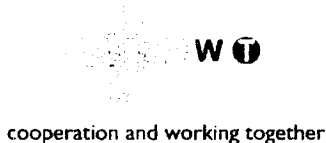
None.

Appendices

Proposal to Health Professions Council in relation to health care professionals responding to major incidents in Ireland.

Date of paper

18th June 2007



Proposal to Health Professions Council (UK) in relation to health care professionals responding to Major Incidents in Ireland

Background

As part of emergency planning Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) wish to establish an arrangement which will facilitate Healthcare Professionals in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to participate as part of a planned response to deal with those effected by a Major Incident on either side of the border.

All parties recognise the legal and jurisdictional limitations of the Professional Regulatory Bodies concerned.

A Major Incident in relation to this proposal is as defined by Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS), attached.

Proposal

- 1) That Healthcare Professionals would be encouraged and be expected to respond in a professional and caring way in the event of a Major Incident on either side of the border as part of a planned emergency response.
- 2) That prior to the deployment of Healthcare Professionals in such a situation, the employer of such staff would satisfy themselves that the Healthcare Professionals to be deployed are on the live register of their respective Regulatory Authority.
- 3) That during such a deployment Healthcare Professionals would continue to practice in keeping with their Code of Professional Practice and would be professionally accountable to their Regulatory Body.
- 4) It is expected that such deployment would only take place in the most significant Major Incidents, but the proposal would cover the day of the incident and up to 10 days following the incident when it would normally be expected that the demand on services had returned to a level that it could be managed by staff from within the jurisdiction.
- 5) That the Regulatory Authorities would consider this arrangement within the same context as any other international humanitarian response within which their registrants participated.
- 6) That a Memorandum of Understanding, an amendment to their rules or an exchange of letters, would cover this arrangement.
- 7) That the employer in receipt of input from the other jurisdiction will inform the regulatory body of the details of those deployed within seven days of the deployment.
- 8) That the recognition of the arrangement would be made known to all relevant parties and would become part of any service agreement which covers a formal Cross Border Major Incident Plan.

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