

Professor Sir John Temple to lead review of Working Time Directive

Professor Sir John Temple has been appointed as independent Chair of the Medical Education England (MEE) review into the European Working Time Directive (EWTD) and its impact upon the quality of postgraduate training for doctors, dentists, pharmacists and healthcare scientists.

The review will have a specific focus on the impact of the 48-hour week on the quality of the training experience that is necessary to ensure a world class workforce delivering high quality services to patients. It will not be a review into service issues or the implementation of the EWTD.

MEE's review will complement the work being done by the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB) as part of their ongoing programme of quality assurance of postgraduate medical education and training.

On August 1 this year, the EWTD was fully applied to doctors in training for the first time. The review was commissioned by former Secretary of State for Health Alan Johnson following concerns raised by trainees and trainers about the potential impact of working reduced hours on the quality of training.

Professor Temple graduated from Liverpool Medical School with an Honours degree and a distinction in surgery. He was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery at Manchester University and Hope Hospital, Salford and Consultant Surgeon with an interest in gastro-intestinal surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham.

He is a former Postgraduate Dean in the West Midlands and chaired the UK Committee of Postgraduate Medical Deans (COPMeD). He became a member, and subsequently President, of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Professor Temple has served on and led numerous academic, educational and other professional bodies and holds Honorary Fellowships, or the equivalent, of 14 colleges and associations in 10 countries.

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He was made a Knight Bachelor in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2003 for services to medicine and medical education.

Professor Sir Christopher Edwards, Chairman of MEE, said: 'We all have patient safety and the quality of care as our highest goal. The safety of tomorrow's patients depends upon a workforce of well-trained and experienced professionals and it is important that we recognise and investigate and concerns about the quality of their training.'

Sir Christopher said: 'It is very fortunate that we have been able to appoint someone of Sir John's calibre to this high profile work. He has an excellent background for this type of review, having undertaken a number of similar pieces of work, as well as his long history of involvement in medical, academic and training issues.'

He said: 'We wanted to ensure that this review was undertaken during a period of stability within the NHS, bearing in mind the potential impact of the 'flu pandemic. I am most grateful that Sir John will lead this work.'

Ends

For further information please contact Richard Green, MEE Head of Communications, 0207 972 5053/07799 895195.

Notes for information: Medical Education England (MEE) is an independent body that advises Ministers on education, training and workforce planning for dentists, doctors, healthcare scientists and pharmacists with the aim of supporting the drive for excellence in patient care.

MEE's core functions are:

- to bring a coherent professional voice on matters relating to education and training and advising the Department of Health on policy;
- professional high level scrutiny of, and advice on, the quality of workforce planning at national level;
- professional scrutiny of, and advice on, the education training and commissioning plans developed at Strategic Health Authority (SHA) level;
- co-ordination of changes to postgraduate training pathways at a national level;
- integration of service and professional perspectives in curricula development; and liaison with other healthcare professional education national oversight bodies and relevant bodies in the Devolved Administrations.

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