

All Postgraduate Medical Trainees
All Directors of Medical Education
All Associate Postgraduate Deans
All Heads of School
All Training Programme Directors
All Educational Supervisors
All Clinical Supervisors

Local Office/Department

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Dear Trainees and Educators

RE: Position Statement on Trainees' Written Reflections

I am writing to you as the Postgraduate Dean and Responsible Officer for postgraduate medical trainees to clarify the position with regard to trainees' written reflections.

Many of you will be aware of a recent instance when a trainee made a reflective entry in the ePortfolio which contained patient identifiable information, which became disclosable in a court case.

The General Medical Council make it clear in Good Medical Practice that reflection is the key to effective continuing professional development, and is a skill that must be developed and practised by all doctors (http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/continuing_professional_development/26744.asp)

I would like to clarify that we continue to expect all trainees in Wessex to make reflective entries in their ePortfolio, which are an essential part of the process of training, and will be reviewed at ARCP. However, the key message of this letter is that **such entries should not contain patient identifiable information**, consistent with the principles of information governance. If trainees have any concerns about how to reflect on a specific incident, I would encourage them to discuss with their education supervisor.

Yours sincerely

Dr Simon Plint

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