

21<sup>st</sup> December 2004

## Joint Consultants Committee responds to Shipman Inquiry

The Joint Consultants Committee (JCC) – a joint committee between the Medical Royal Colleges and the British Medical Association – sympathises with the public’s concern following the criminal activities of Harold Shipman.

Professor William Dunlop, JCC Chairman, said:

“Dame Janet Smith’s fifth report from the Shipman Inquiry is an important contribution to the debate about how to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

“Extensive reform of the GMC – the medical profession’s regulatory body – has taken place since the Shipman crimes came to light. Further changes will take place from April 2005, when new revalidation and licence to practise procedures for doctors are introduced. Moreover, specialist (including GP) registration will be much more transparently regulated when the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board begins to function in September 2005.

“The JCC will consider the report’s recommendations at its next meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2005 - which will involve representatives of the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Department of Health. We will then issue a JCC response.”

Ends

Note to Editors:

The Joint Consultants Committee (JCC) represents the medical profession in discussions with the UK Departments of Health on matters relating to standards of professional knowledge and skill in the hospital service and considers all matters of policy related either directly or indirectly to hospital practice not falling within the terms and conditions of service of hospital medical and dental staff. The JCC also supports academic medicine through the promotion of medical education and research.

The JCC comprises representatives from each of the British Medical Association’s craft committees and the Presidents of the Royal Medical Colleges, as well as members from the Council of Heads of Medical Schools and the Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans.



## JOINT CONSULTANTS COMMITTEE

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British Medical Association

Council of Heads of Medical Schools

And Deans of UK Faculties of Medicine