The investigation process

GOC receives completed investigation form, plus (if appropriate) permission to access optical records

Registrant(s) and employer(s) informed of GOC investigation

GOC staff/solicitors gather evidence

Registrant has 28 days from receiving copies of the investigation form and evidence to make written representations

Registrant(s)' representations sent to complainant

Investigation form, evidence, representations and any complainant’s comments considered by the Investigation Committee (in private)

The Investigation Committee decision

The Investigation Committee decides the complaint ought to be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee (see separate flowchart)

The Investigation Committee decides the complaint ought not to be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee

The Investigation Committee must consider issuing a warning

If the Committee decides a warning may be appropriate it notifies the registrant and allows 28 days for the registrant to make written representations before making its decision.

Following the 28 day period, the Committee will decide whether to issue the warning, taking any representations into account.

If an interim order is imposed there will be regular review hearings

Interim Order hearing (registrant entitled to attend and/or to be represented)

Fitness to Practise Committee decision re imposition of an interim order

If the Committee considers an application should be made, the registrant will be notified about the hearing

Investigation Committee may consider whether an application for an interim order should be made to the Fitness to Practise Committee

If the Committee requires further information it may order a health or performance assessment, or other investigation be undertaken

Following completion of that further investigation, the registrant will be allowed an opportunity to make written representations on any additional evidence gathered, as will the complainant (if appropriate).

Registrant, complainant and employer notified of outcome