

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Case No: 325/2550

Interim Suspension Order Hearing

DECISION

Case of: Ms Tracy Wilkinson

Committee: Mr David Plank (Chairman)
Ms Margaret Wolff
Ms Jackie Salter

Legal Assessor: Mr Alastair McFarlane

Representation for Council: Ms Teresa Murphy

Representation for Osteopath:

Clerk to the Committee: Anna Ripley

Date of Hearing: Wednesday 14th October 2009

Decision:

The Committee has carefully considered all the documentary evidence before us as well as the submissions of Ms Murphy for the Council and Ms Wilkinson on her own behalf. We reminded ourselves that the Committee may only impose an Interim Suspension Order on a Registrant under Section 24(2) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 if we are satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to protect members of the public.

The Committee has balanced our duty to ensure public protection and the right of Ms Wilkinson to pursue her profession. The Committee is satisfied that it is necessary to impose an Interim Suspension Order to protect the public in this case. Our reasons are as follows:

The Allegation of practising without adequate professional indemnity insurance is a very serious one. It is essential that any practising osteopath is insured so that adequate compensation is available for any patient who suffers injury as a result of any negligent act or omission. The patients of an osteopath who practises without

insurance are therefore at a real risk of significant harm. Further in the Committee's judgement a real risk of repetition before the final hearing of the case exists if an Order is not made. Accordingly, owing to the nature and seriousness of the Allegation and the risk of harm to the public, the Committee imposes an interim Suspension Order.

Ms Wilkinson will be notified in writing of this decision and of the right of appeal.

That concludes today's proceedings.