

Access to Medical Reports Act 1988

Foreword from the Faculty President

Since its enactment in 1988, the provisions of the Access to Medical Reports Act have been utilised in millions of occupational medical transactions. Despite a number of unclear aspects as to when and how it is appropriate to follow these provisions, no case law has been built up to guide practitioners. Various legal authorities have given their views as have the British Medical Association and the Faculty, within its ethics guidance. The Faculty's guidance acknowledges that particular clinical situations demand some judgement from occupational physicians as to whether or how the provisions of the Act should be applied.

The following document has been generated by a group of occupational physicians, subjected to consultation and subsequently drawn together by Professor Holland-Elliott. The Faculty of Occupational Medicine does not endorse the document but we feel that the subject is an important one for occupational physicians and thus we publish it on the website as a piece of work which will, I am sure, serve to focus debate and discussion. Please read the introductory paragraph furnished by Professor Holland-Elliott and direct any comments you have on the piece to him at the appropriate address.

[Guidance for Occupational Physicians on Compliance with the Access to Medical Reports Act](#)

Dr David Snashall
President

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