

15 August 2025

In reply please quote: E1-4987881143

**General  
Medical  
Council**

**Private: for addressee only**

Mx Nnamdi Michael Okpala

Sent via email only: [okpalan@protonmail.com](mailto:okpalan@protonmail.com)

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Dear Mx Okpala

Thank you for contacting us with your concerns

We have carefully considered the information provided, and while we appreciate your reasons for writing to us, we don't feel that these are issues that would warrant further GMC action being taken. We are sorry if this is not the outcome that you were hoping for.

Please be assured that our decision is not, in any way, meant to negate or minimise any distress caused to you as a consequence of the matters you have outlined. However, we can only take action when we believe a doctor is not fit to practise and we do not consider this to be the case.

## Our Role

We work with doctors, physician associates (PAs), anaesthesia associates (AAs), those they care for and other stakeholders to support good, safe patient care across the UK. We set the standards doctors, PAs, AAs and their educators need to meet, and help them achieve them. If there are concerns these standards may not be met or that public confidence in doctors, PAs, or AAs may be at risk, we can investigate, and take action if needed.

The purpose of an investigation is to determine if or to what extent we need to restrict the doctor from working. We are not a general complaints body and we have no legal powers to intervene in or resolve matters for patients.

## Our Decision

Although no registrants are named, we have considered the points raised as though individuals had been identified.

In relation to mental health sectioning, although the complainant questions the appropriateness of the decision to section him under the Mental Health Act, it would appear that you were fully assessed by the doctors involved and as a result of this assessment, they considered that you were experiencing mental health issues that required involuntary mental health care via detainment and ordinarily this is not something that the GMC would normally look into. Safeguarding policies are

generally set within institutions and failure to comply with them would be an issue to be addressed locally.

In terms of the medication, we could consider concerns about incorrect or inappropriate treatment. However, the information provided indicates that the treatment was decided on the basis of information provided by mother and consented to by her. It's unlikely we would consider action against a doctor for making a decision based on incorrect or incomplete information, where they would not reasonably be expected to know that was the case. We would also point out that only in exceptional circumstances would we consider concerns that relate to issues more than 5 years ago.

Whilst this would have been an extremely difficult time in your life, at the General Medical Council we can only take action in relation to specific concerns about doctors, anaesthesia associates, and physician associates who are registered to practise in the UK. We are unable to assist in these matters. The FOI request has been dealt with separately to this enquiry. This complaint is therefore closed.

## Our Independent Support Service

We recognise that raising concerns about a doctor can be a stressful experience. If you would like to talk to someone, you might wish to speak to our **Independent support service (ISS)**. This is a free, confidential and independent telephone support service provided by Victim Support. You can contact them by calling **0300 303 3709** and find more information on their service on the [Victim Support's Website](#). Please be aware that the ISS are unable to discuss or advise on decisions made by the GMC.

## Reviewing Our Decision

We have an internal review mechanism ('Rule 12') which lets us look at certain decisions again. Attached is an FAQ document which explains more about the process.

We will only ever review a case if there is a serious mistake with the decision which, if corrected, could lead to a different outcome. Or if there is significant new information that we haven't seen before, which might have led to a different decision. We would then only review if at least one of those grounds was met and a review is necessary to protect the wider public. Any review needs to start within two years of the original decision, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

To request a review, please complete the attached questionnaire and return either via post or email, using the address provided on the form.

We are sorry that we are unable to assist you further at this time.

## Your feedback

We would be grateful if you could complete a short feedback survey: [Please click here to access the survey](#).

It should take less than five minutes to complete. Your feedback will help us improve how we communicate with everyone involved in our processes. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

**The Enquiries Team**

**On behalf of the Assistant Registrar**

The General Medical Council

3 Hardman Street, Manchester, M3 3AW

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**Enc:** Rule 12 FAQ document