

GMC complaints

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Sir, In your leader on NHS whistleblowing (Nov 12) you say the GMC is “far more receptive” to complaints made by health workers than to those made by members of the public, giving as evidence the fact that only 11 doctors were struck off last year as a result of patient complaints compared with 66 struck off after complaints from medical professionals. A more plausible reason for this apparent disparity is that complaints from other doctors are more likely to lead to disciplinary action, given the complainant’s medical background and knowledge of what constitutes malpractice. The answer is not to give more weight to complaints from patients, but to give equal weight to all complaints, regardless of source, and ensure that they are properly investigated.

Dr Bob Bury

Leeds