

# PRESS RELEASE

**20 March 2017**

**Commenting on a consultation launched today looking at protecting NHS whistle-blowers from discrimination -**

**Dr Pallavi Bradshaw, Senior Medicolegal Adviser at the Medical Protection Society, said:**

“Efforts to help to bring about an open, learning culture in the NHS are to be welcomed. The Medical Protection Society has long called for a culture of openness in the NHS - we believe that healthcare professionals should no longer react to incidents with fear, but with an eagerness to report, explain and learn from what has happened.

“We do however recognise the enormous challenge a doctor faces when raising concerns about patient care, particularly if this requires raising concerns about a colleague’s behaviour, health or professional performance.

“Our experience shows that there is still anxiety among the healthcare community about speaking out. There is uncertainty around how to take concerns forward, doctors feel anxious that effective action will not be taken if they do raise issues, and they worry that speaking out will mean they are seen as the problem rather than a source of valuable information.

“These all remain significant challenges – and they can only be tackled through cultural change.”

**END**

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## *About MPS*

The Medical Protection Society Limited (“MPS”) is the world’s leading protection organisation for doctors, dentists and healthcare professionals. We protect and support the professional interests of more than 300,000 members around the world. Membership provides access to expert advice and support together with the right to request indemnity for complaints or claims arising from professional practice.

Our in-house experts assist with the wide range of legal and ethical problems that arise from professional practice. This can include clinical negligence claims, complaints, medical and dental council inquiries, legal and ethical dilemmas, disciplinary procedures, inquests and fatal accident inquiries.

Our philosophy is to support safe practice in medicine and dentistry by helping to avert problems in the first place. We do this by promoting risk management through our workshops, E-learning, clinical risk assessments, publications, conferences, lectures and presentations.

MPS is not an insurance company. All the benefits of membership of MPS are discretionary as set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association.