



- (b) PPC guidance on medical aspects of fitness to drive (Royal College of Psychiatrists, 1996).

Following receipt of a report on the above meeting with the DVLA, the PPC established a working group, the membership being as follows: Dr John Baird, Dr Ranjit Baruah (Chair), Dr David Thompson, Dr Daphne Wallace and Dr Mary Whalley.

Dr Jane Durston, senior medical adviser at the DVLA, attended the working group meeting on 7 September 2000. The following were agreed:

- (a) The current issue of the *At a Glance* document, which is issued to every doctor, specifies the current standards of fitness to drive.
- (b) Doctors should follow General Medical Council guidelines to notify the DVLA of a lack of fitness to drive of their patients.
- (c) Any concerns, current or future, that the College may have on driving related matters should be referred to the above DVLA working group for initial consideration who will then, if necessary, refer to the senior medical adviser for possible submission to the appropriate advisory panel.
- (d) The DVLA would appreciate any help that the College could offer that results in wider promotion of the *At a Glance* document and accepted the working group's suggestion for consideration that the proposed publicity drive to increase awareness of driving related standards should also be aimed at the general population as well as clinicians. It is the individual driver's responsibility to notify the DVLA of any changes to his/her physical and mental health that affects driving ability.

In the light of the above:

- (a) The College is in the process of submitting its policy documents to the Psychiatric Advisory Panel to ensure that these meet the statutory requirements. If amendments are called for these will be considered by the PPC. The outcome will be released through the *Psychiatric Bulletin*.
- (b) Any matter of concern relating to driving by psychiatric patients should be at first referred to the DVLA working group for consideration and further liaison with the medical department of the DVLA for advice and action, which may involve making recommendations to the Secretary of

State. Such reports should be addressed to Christopher Walden, Parliamentary and Policy Officer at the College, for referral to the Chair of the DVLA working group. This arrangement does not prejudice individual members' ability to represent individual cases of concern.

- (c) The current basis of membership of the working group representing relevant faculties will continue and it is agreed that the Honorary Secretary to the PPC should act as the College link person with the DVLA.
- (d) The College could assist the DVLA in its promotion of the *At a Glance* document through the divisional structure, if presentation on the subject at divisional meetings is requested by the DVLA.

It is hoped that through these arrangements difficulties in patient care in the community will be minimised.

DVLA (1995) *At a Glance*. Swansea: HMSO.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS (1993) Psychiatric standards of fitness to drive large goods vehicles (LGVs) and passenger carrying vehicles (PCVs). *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **17**, 631–632.

— (1996) Public Policy Committee guidance on medical aspects of fitness to drive. *Psychiatric Bulletin*, **20**, 631.

Dr Ranjit K. Baruah Honorary Secretary to the PPC

Election of President

Notice to Fellows and Members

Fellows and Members are reminded of their rights under the Bye-laws and Regulations as follows.

Bye-law XI

The President shall be elected annually from among the Fellows.

Regulation XI

- (1) As soon as may be practicable after the first day of June in any year the Council shall hold a nomination meeting and shall at such meeting nominate not less than one candidate and not more than three candidates.

- (2) Between the first day of June in any year and the date that is 4 clear weeks after the nomination meeting of the Council, written nominations accompanied in each case by the nominee's written consent to stand for election, may be lodged with the Registrar, provided that each such nomination is supported in writing by not less than 12 Members of the College who are not members of the Council.
- (3) An election by ballot shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The nominating meeting of the Council will be held on 31 October and the last date for receiving nominations under (2) above will therefore be 28 November.

Professor John Cox is in his third year of office as President and is therefore not eligible for re-election.

MRCPsych examinations – Chief Examiner

Applications are invited from College Fellows for the post of Chief Examiner, which will become vacant at the end of this year. The postholder works closely with the Dean, has day-to-day responsibility for the conduct and standards of the examination for Membership and reports directly to the Court of Electors on such matters.

Based within the Department of Examination Services, the postholder will be supported in his or her work by the Head of Examination Services and her assistant. The Chief Examiner is an honorary position with a term of office of 4 years. It is probable that the postholder would need to devote one session per week to this work, not including attendance at committee meetings. A further one session a week will be required before and immediately after publication of the results of each examination diet, in May and June, and in November and December each year. The Examinations Sub-Committee (ESC) meets four times a year and the postholder will work closely with the Dean and members of the ESC, especially the two Deputy Chief Examiners. Interviews are likely to take place in the latter half of November.

If you are interested in applying, please contact Ms Julie Smalls, Head of Examination Services, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG by Friday 2 November 2001.

corrigendum

On page 277 of the letter written by Richardson and Joseph (*Psychiatric*

Bulletin, July 2001, **25**, 276–277) the number of respondents (line 9 of second

paragraph) should read seventy-six per cent, not seventy-eight.