

Professional Conduct Procedure

PR10 - Protocol for Joinder

In line with paragraph 4.7 of the Professional Conduct Procedure (PCP), the Panel can consider or hear a complaint or complaints against two or more Members complained against at the same time, or multiple complaints against a Member, except when it is not in the interests of justice to do this.

For a joinder of complaints, it must be just to join the complaints. The Panel will consider the interests of justice, the interests of the Complainant or Complainants and the Member complained against.

Complaints from more than one Complainant

When considering joining complaints from more than one Complainant against a single Member, the Panel should take the following into account:

- whether the substance of the complaints is the same or similar
- whether the complaints are based on the same or similar facts
- whether the complaints are based on connected or related events

If the above factors exist, it may be appropriate to join the complaints.

The Panel will make appropriate arrangements to protect the confidentiality of the Complainants concerned.

Complaints against more than one Member

When considering joining complaints against more than one Member, the Panel should take the following into account:

- whether the complaints relate directly to participation in the same acts or events
- whether the complaints are based on related or connected events
- whether the complaints relate are in relation to a common enterprise

If the above factors are common to complaints made against more than one Member by a Complainant, it may be appropriate to join the complaints. Where complaints are joined,

each Member will only be accountable for failing to meet Professional Standards alleged against them, in the areas of complaint directly relating to them.

The Panel will make the appropriate arrangements to protect the confidentiality of the Complainants concerned.

Severance

The Panel's discretion to join complaints also includes the discretion to sever them and deal with them separately if they believe it would be more appropriate and just to deal with them separately.