



**Report of the Fitness to Practise Committee  
following an Inquiry held pursuant to Part 8  
of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007**

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<b>Registered Medical Practitioner:</b>	Dr Chidozie Onovo
<b>Registration Number:</b>	172113
<b>Registered Address:</b>	Gort Fontain Seskin Bantry Co Cork
<b>Date of Inquiry:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
<b>Members of Inquiry Committee:</b>	Dr Danny O'Hare (Chair) Dr Mary Henry Mr Peter Mooney
<b>Legal Assessor:</b>	Mr Seamus Woulfe SC
<b>Appearances - For the Chief Executive:</b>	Mr. JP Mc Dowell of Mc Dowell Purcell Solicitors.
<b>For the Practitioner:</b>	No Appearance

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**Findings of the Committee:**

**Allegation 1:**

That on or around 17 September 1998 at the Crown Court at Southwark, London, Dr Onovo was convicted of being knowingly concerned in attempting to evade prohibition or restriction on the importation of class "B" controlled drug(s) contrary to section 3(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Having regard to the evidence adduced, the Committee found that :

Allegation 1 was proven as to the factual element of the conviction outside the State.

Reason:

This factual element was established beyond a reasonable doubt.

Allegation 1 did amount to a conviction outside the State for an offence consisting of acts or omissions that, if done or made in the State, would constitute an offence triable on indictment

**Allegation 2:**

That on or around 29 September 2010 at the District Court at Christchurch, New Zealand Dr Onovo was convicted of one or more of the following:

- a. Producing a work visa, knowing it to have been obtained fraudulently, contrary to section 142(1)(d) of the Immigration Act 1987 and/or
- b. Without reasonable excuse supplying information to an immigration officer, namely a work permit and or a visa application knowing the work permit and/or visa application was false and/or misleading in a material respect, contrary to section 142(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1987 and/or
- c. Such further allegations as may be notified to him in advance of the Inquiry.

Allegation 2(a) was proven as to the factual element of the conviction outside the State

Allegation 2(a) did not amount to a conviction outside the State for an offence consisting of acts or omissions that, if done or made in the State, would constitute an offence triable on indictment.

Allegation 2(b) was proven as to the factual element of the conviction outside the State

Allegation 2(b) did not amount to a conviction outside the State for an offence consisting of acts or omissions that, if done or made in the State, would constitute an offence triable on indictment.

**Allegation 3:**

That on or around 08 January 2003, Dr Onovo submitted an application form for temporary registration to the Medical Council in which he declared that he had not been convicted in a court of law and/or failed to provide full particulars of a conviction in circumstances where he had been convicted of the offence referred to in allegation 1 above at the Crown Court at Southwark on or around 17 September 1998.

Allegation 3 was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The evidence of Ms Curran and the documentary evidence established this beyond a reasonable doubt.

Allegation 3 did amount to professional misconduct.

Reason:

The Committee was satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that this was conduct which doctors of experience, competence and good repute consider disgraceful or dishonourable and in addition the Committee accepted the evidence of Professor Bradley in this regard.

**Allegation 4:**

That Dr Onovo submitted a curriculum vitae form with the application form referred to in allegation 3 above, in which he stated:

- a. that you had worked at National Specialist Hospital, Enugu State, Nigeria from December 1997 to June 1999 when he was in fact imprisoned consequent on the conviction referred to in allegation 1 above during some or all of that period and/or
- b. that he had worked at Park Lane General Hospital, Enugu State, Nigeria from July 1999 to August 2002 when he was in fact subject to licence conditions consequent on the conviction referred to in allegation 1 above during some or all of that period.

Allegation 4(a) and (b) proven as to fact.

Reason:

The evidence of Ms Curran and the documentary evidence established this beyond a reasonable doubt.

Allegation 4(a) and (b) did amount to professional misconduct.

Reason:

The Committee was satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that this was conduct which doctors of experience, competence and good repute consider disgraceful or dishonourable and in addition the Committee accepted the evidence of Professor Bradley in this regard.

**Allegation 5:**

That on or around 11 August 2008, Dr Onovo submitted an application form for registration with the Medical Council in which he declared that he had not been convicted in a court of law and/or failed to provide full particulars of his conviction in circumstances where he had been convicted of an offence at the Crown Court at Southwark on or around 17 September 1998.

Allegation 5 was proven as to fact.

Reason:

The evidence of Ms Curran and the documentary evidence established this beyond a reasonable doubt.

Allegation 5 did amount to professional misconduct.

Reason:

The Committee was satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that this was conduct which doctors of experience, competence and good repute consider disgraceful or dishonourable and in addition the Committee accepted the evidence of Professor Bradley in this regard.

**Allegation 6:**

This allegation was withdrawn by the CEO.



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Chairperson

14<sup>th</sup> January 2013

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Date