

## Responsible officers

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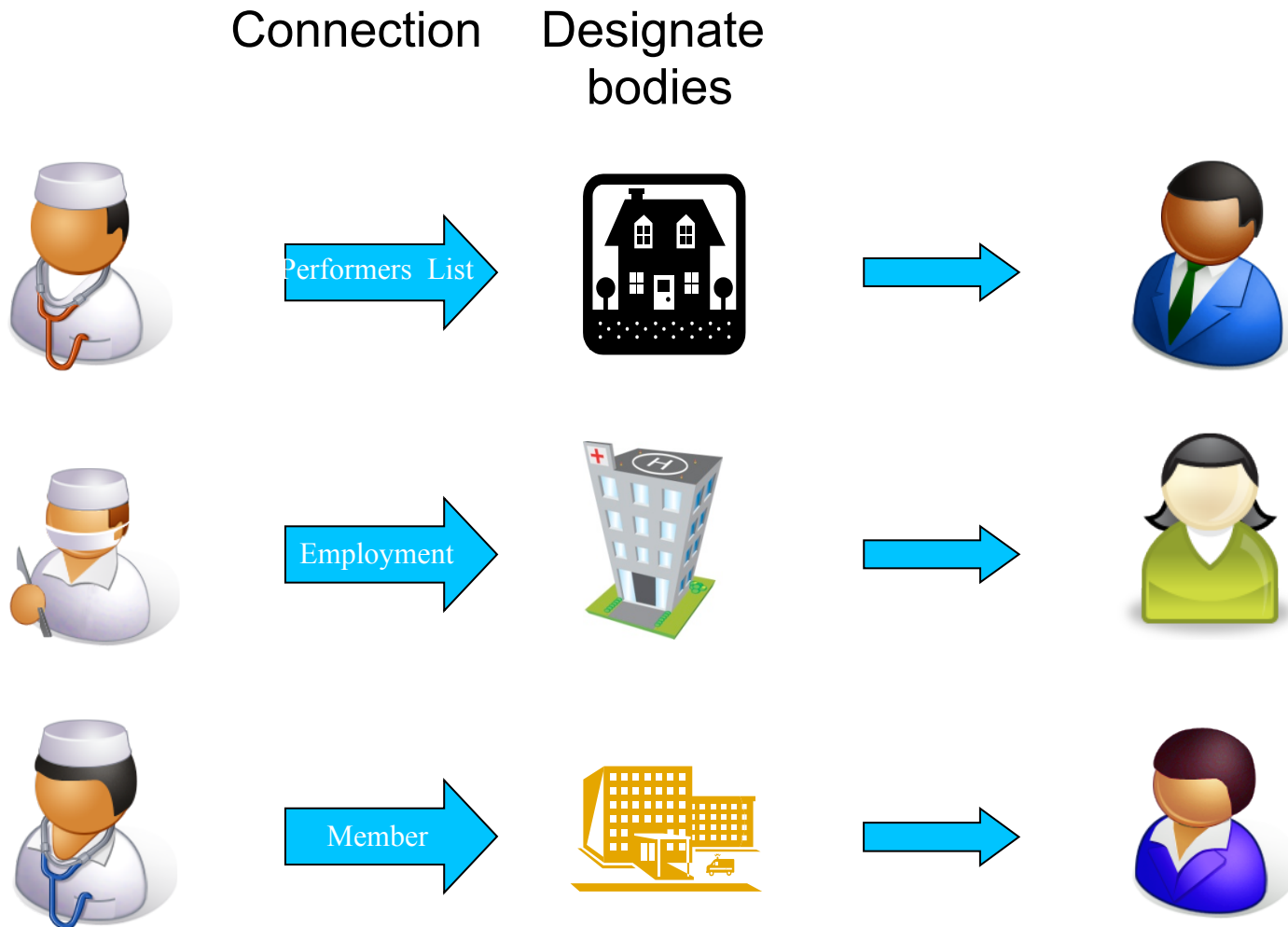
## Key principles

- The vast majority of practicing doctors, and particularly those whose work affects the safety of patients, will relate to a responsible officer (and only one)
- The responsible officer must be a licensed medical professional
- Locum agencies should appoint responsible officers subject to them having good clinical governance systems
- Doctors are responsible for ensuring they know who is their responsible officer

## Roles of responsible officers

- Setting up local systems of clinical governance, in particular those relating to
  - medical revalidation
    - doctors appraised
    - cohort of trained appraisers
  - concerns over the performance and conduct of doctors
  - liaison with the GMC [in future, the GMC affiliate]
- Personal involvement in individual cases
  - serious concerns over the performance, conduct and health of individual doctors
  - recommendations to GMC on revalidation

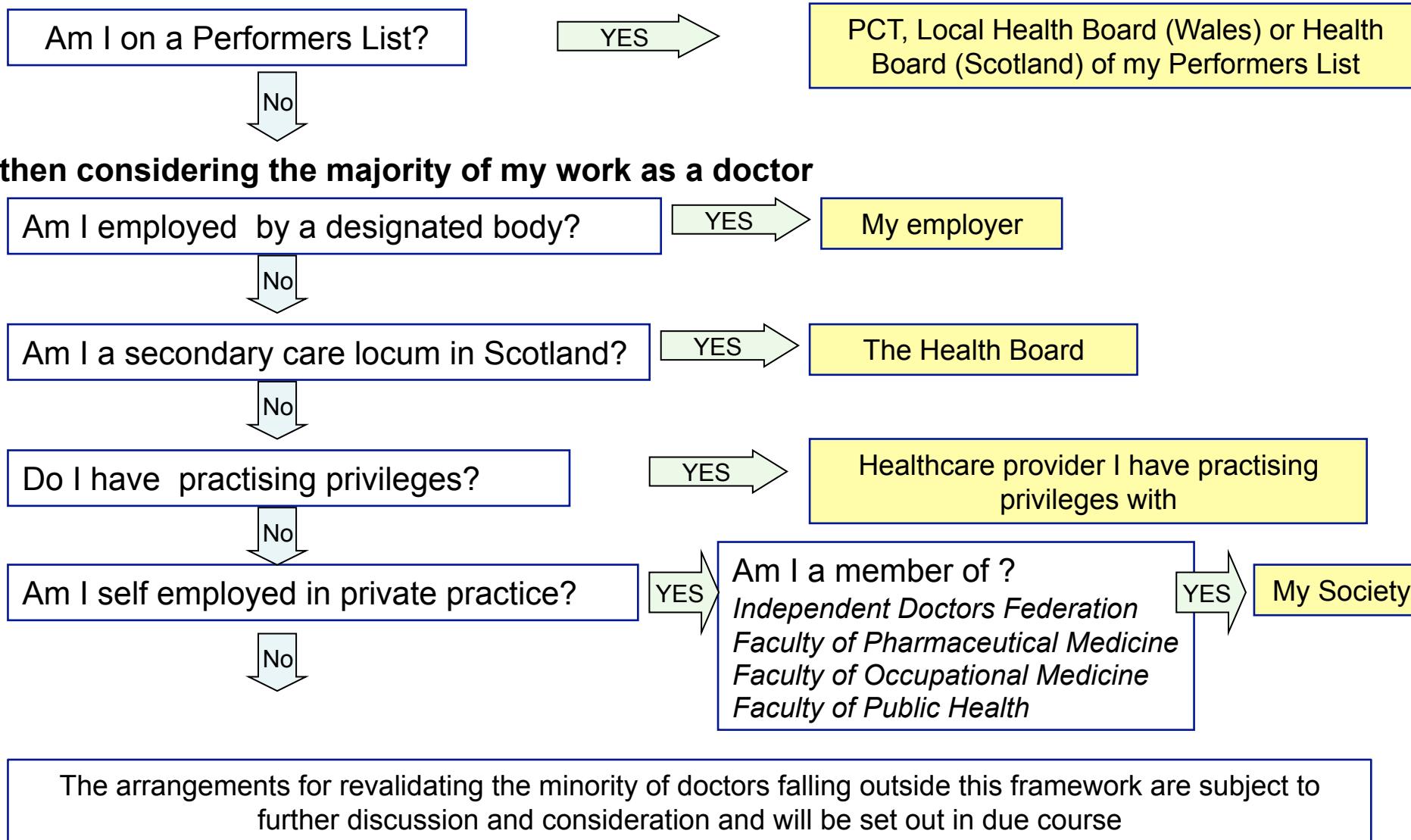
# Linking doctors to responsible officers



## Organisations with a responsible officer

- Providers of healthcare;
  - Key organisations such as the NHS; and
  - Other providers only if they employ doctors;
- Policy and standard setters;
  - government departments;
  - Medical Royal Colleges
- A small range of organisations
  - 3 Faculties (Occupational Health, Pharmaceutical Medicine and Public Health); and
  - Independent Doctors Federation.

# How do I find my responsible officer?



## Key issues

- Designating other organisations where doctors work
- Who should accredit the clinical governance of locum agencies?
- Who will be the responsible officer's responsible officer?
- How will conflicts of interest be handled?
- Developing support for responsible officers

## Next steps

Time	Activity
25 Aug – 25 Oct	Consultation on draft regulations and guidance
Nov – Jan	Complete draft regulations and guidance
Jan – Mar 2010	Parliamentary debates
1 April 2010	Responsible officer regulations made
1 October 2010	Responsible officer regulations in force

## Further information

### Responsible officers

Consultation documents including draft guidance and regulations

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_104587](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_104587)

Responsible officer mailbox

[responsibleofficer@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:responsibleofficer@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

### Revalidation

GMC

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/about/reform/Revalidation.asp>

Revalidation Support Team

<http://www.revalidationsupport.nhs.uk/>

Professional Standards Programme

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/  
Humanresourcesandtraining/Modernisingprofessionalregulation/  
ProfessionalRegulationandPatientSafetyProgramme/DH\\_077967](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Managingyourorganisation/Humanresourcesandtraining/Modernisingprofessionalregulation/ProfessionalRegulationandPatientSafetyProgramme/DH_077967)