

**NOTES**

- <sup>1</sup> Figures have been taken from Annual Reports for 1984-1994 and from the Report to Council of the work of the PPC in 1995.
- <sup>2</sup> The term 'complaint' has been cast very widely; the figures include any correspondence with the GMC which could possibly contain a criticism of a doctor. The figures will include, for example, the 17% of complaints that cannot be taken forward because the complainant does not name the doctor. Between 1984-1994 cases were counted from 1 September-31 August, rather than on a calendar year basis. The figures for 1994 run from 1 September 1993-31 August 1994. The figures for 1995 start on 1 January 1995. In the intervening period the GMC received 485 new complaints.
- <sup>3</sup> The way this figure has been calculated differs slightly: for 1984-1988 it is the total number of complaints in which the screener directed there was no question of serious professional misconduct, or were answered by GMC staff under standing instructions agreed by the screener or in which informal disciplinary action was taken. For the years 1989-1995 the annual reports do not always contain the relevant statistics, and in some cases by the end of the period concerned no decision had yet been reached on what action to take. Therefore the figure has been calculated as the percentage of the total complaints which were not referred to the PPC.