

[REDACTED]
Lanthwaite

Crosscanonby

Maryport

10 July 2019

Dear Sir,

I am replying to your Regulation 28 request in my capacity as secretary to the UK Diving Medical Committee. We are a voluntary group of experienced doctors who specialise in diving medicine. We meet regularly and advise the sport diving training organisations on medical matters. We also help with medical education to do with diving medicine. We are also consulted by the Health and safety executive on diving matters. We have no office or staff hence this reply is from my home address.

As a committee, we have had a lengthy discussion about the points raised by [REDACTED]. We were all agreed that in an ideal scenario all divers or potential divers should bring copies of a full and none adjusted medical record to all consultations. However we already have a situation where our hard pressed general Practitioner colleagues are refusing to sign or even fill in any forms which are none NHS work.

At present, any diving referee [doctor with extra training in diving medicine] who is approached by a diver who declares a problem on the current self certification form, can ask them to provide further medical information prior to seeing them. The self certification process was brought in for sport divers in 1999 after a review of the previous system of regular medical examinations was shown to have a very low pick up of problems. The form is reviewed and altered if necessary every 2-3 years.

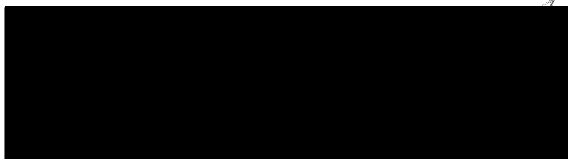
The system requires complete honesty on behalf of the diver and the onus is on the diver to provide any corroborative medical information that is asked for. If the referee is uncertain with what is presented, we have an online forum where, with the divers consent, we can get help from colleagues fairly quickly to allow us to proceed in our assessment.

Currently the Civil Aviation Authority accepts the applicants declaration about eye tests and vision and the DVLA accepts the applicants word regarding

epileptic convulsions and regaining a driving license without resorting to gp notes.

We feel as a committee, that at the present time,we see no reason to change the current system.

Yours Faithfully

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av Wilm

MB.BS.FRCGP

Hon secretary to UKDMC