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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CO/4177/2018

QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

**[2018] EWHC 3310 (Admin)**

Royal Courts of Justice

Wednesday, 14 November 2018

Before:

MR JUSTICE SWIFT

B E T W E E N :

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL

Applicant

- and -

SMITHSON

Respondent

MR M BELLIS (instructed by the Nursing and Midwifery Council) appeared on behalf of the Applicant.

THE RESPONDENT did not appear and was not represented.

**J U D G M E N T**

MR JUSTICE SWIFT:

- 1 You ask for a further 4 months. I am not entirely satisfied with this situation. The suspension has now been in place for 2 years, a long time. The need to revisit the charges, and the adjournment of the October hearing was very unfortunate, given the hearing had already been adjourned once, in March because Ms Smithson was unwell.
- 2 I will make an order in the form that you request, but may I say I will expect this case now to be given some sort of priority when it comes to relisting. I appreciate that dates will need to be found that are suitable for Ms Smithson, given that she bears no responsibility for the October adjournment was not her responsibility.
- 3 Nevertheless, the hearing must be listed in good time for it to be completed and a decision given well in advance of 14 March next year. I would not expect a further application for an extension to be made unless there was a genuinely compelling reason. If you could pass that on to those who instruct you I would be very grateful. I will make an order in the form that you have handed up in draft. Thank you.

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**CERTIFICATE**

Opus 2 International Ltd. Hereby certifies that the above is an accurate and complete record of the judgment or part thereof.

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This transcript has been approved by the Judge.