

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2011
RECOGNISED QUALIFICATIONS – STREAMLINING THE PROCESS

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	To Note
<u>Issue</u>	As a result of considerable delays in the granting of some Recognised Qualification (RQs), discussions have been held with DH about how the process could be streamlined at the Privy Council, DH and internally.
<u>Recommendations</u>	To note the steps being taken with DH to streamline the RQ process and to receive an oral update about the meeting with DH Policy officials and lawyers on 9 June 2011.
<u>Financial and resourcing implications</u>	The work being undertaken as set out in this paper is designed to reduce the number of decisions being reconsidered by Council and Committee members. Additional staff time will be required in the short term to achieve this efficiency.
<u>Equality and diversity implications</u>	None arising from this paper.
<u>Communications implications</u>	We will need to take steps to communicate, in general terms, the issues arising when obtaining Privy Council approval to Council decisions to recognise qualifications.
<u>Annexes</u>	None
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Background

1. Three recent RQ decisions have been delayed for a variety of reasons including a need for a number of revisions following discussion with the Department of Health (DH) and their lawyers, and the Privy Council. These amendments necessitated repeated requests to both Education Committee and Council for approval of changes to RQs.
2. This is clearly an inefficient process both from the perspective of the Education Committee and Council members and also from the perspective of the DH.

DH/GOsC liaison

3. A meeting took place between Gavin Larner and Nick Clark of the DH and Tim Walker of the GOsC to discuss RQ issues and to explore how the process might be made more efficient. As a result of the meeting GOsC agreed to provide a background briefing and chronology of recent RQs. The briefing was considered by the Committee at its last meeting and is available on request from Dayna Sherwin (dsherwin@osteopathy.org.uk).
4. A further meeting is planned for 9 June 2011 involving DH lawyers and policy officials, and the both the Professional Standards Manager and Head of Regulation to explore improved ways of working including:
 - a. Developing a set of standard type conditions that could be used on RQs without the need for further legal input;
 - b. The type of and circumstances in which minor drafting changes need to be referred back to the Education Committee and Council;
 - c. Holding a meeting or teleconference following the submission of RQs with legal and policy representatives of both sides to progress matters promptly following submission of information from the General Osteopathic Council.
5. The Professional Standards Manager will provide an oral update on the outcomes of this meeting. Some of the discussion topics to be explored at this meeting are outlined below.

Recommendations:

To note the steps being taken with DH to streamline the RQ process and to receive a verbal update about the meeting with DH Policy officials and lawyers on 9 June 2011.