

Education Committee

14 March 2012

Quality Assurance Review – Refreshing the Visitor Pool

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	To note
<u>Issue</u>	Progress with the recruitment of additional Visitors to the Quality Assurance Visitor pool to undertake Visits to Osteopathic Educational Institutions.
<u>Recommendation</u>	To note the progress of the recruitment of additional Quality Assurance Visitors.
<u>Financial and resourcing implications</u>	The costs of recruitment are incorporated into the existing QAA contract.
<u>Equality and diversity implications</u>	The QAA is an equal opportunities employer.
<u>Communications implications</u>	The recruitment advertisement has advertised on the websites of both the GOsC and the QAA and has been circulated directly to relevant stakeholders by email including osteopaths and the Osteopathic Educational Institutions.
<u>Annex</u>	None
<u>Author</u>	Marcus Dye

Background

1. At its meeting of 15 December 2011, the Education Committee agreed that the existing pool of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) review Visitors should be maintained, but that further recruitment should be undertaken to make up any shortfall in the numbers.
2. The QAA has subsequently developed a recruitment timetable whereby applications against the job description and criteria in the new GOsC Review Method Handbook are to be submitted by 19 March 2012. The Handbook is available on the QAA website: <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/InstitutionReports/types-of-review/Pages/GOsC-review.aspx>. The QAA will conduct interviews in the week commencing 26 March 2012 and training will be scheduled for April 2012 for successful applicants.
3. The QAA is seeking to recruit both osteopath and lay Visitors, with a minimum of two lay Visitors required and around 4-6 osteopath Visitors depending on the quality of applications.
4. The advertisement was circulated to Committee members by email on 2 March 2012. It is published on the websites of both the GOsC and the QAA. It has been sent to the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) by email with a request to post on their notice boards and intranets. It has also been emailed directly to osteopaths, the British Osteopathic Association and Special interest/post-graduate training institutions. The QAA has also circulated the advertisement internally and to its own contacts.
5. Once further Visitors are recruited, they will receive training immediately before they undertake Visiting duties.
6. The Education Committee will be asked to approve the Visitors once they have been assigned to a Visiting Team for a particular institution in the usual way under Section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993. Section 12 requires the Committee to appoint Visitors to visit 'places or institutions' where 'any relevant course of study ... examination ... or test of competence...' is or is proposed to be given.

Recommendation:

7. To note the progress of the recruitment of additional Quality Assurance Visitors.