



General  
Osteopathic  
Council

## NEWS

### **GOsC responds to acupuncture and herbal medicine consultation**

12 November 2009

The Department of Health has been consulting on the future regulation of practitioners of acupuncture, herbal medicine, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and other forms of traditional medicine practised in the UK.

The GOsC has now submitted a [response](#) to the consultation.

Statutory regulation is one option considered, although the government has confirmed that no new statutory regulator will be established for the above disciplines. Respondents were asked:

- should the regulator be the Health Professions Council or the new General Pharmaceutical Council?
- what would be the costs and benefits of statutory regulation?
- what would the impact be for individual practitioners, businesses and the public?

A potential impact for osteopaths could be dual/distributed regulation as members of the profession also practise as acupuncturists, herbalists and TCM practitioners. This would, of course, have cost implications for osteopaths and could potentially cause confusion in the event of a complaint.