



General
Osteopathic
Council

Consultation on the General Osteopathic Council Strategic Plan, towards 2030

Date TBC

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About the General Osteopathic Council

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) is the regulator for the osteopathic profession in the UK. Our role is to develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy which we do by setting standards of education, training, conduct and competence and keeping a Register of those who have qualified and met those standards. By law, osteopaths must be registered with us in order to practise in the UK; there are currently around 5,400 osteopaths.

Background

The Council of the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) have a responsibility for setting the strategic direction of the organisation. Our current Strategic Plan ends on 31 March 2024.

Over the past 18 months, the Council has considered its strategic direction in a number of different ways. The approach has included: Council meeting discussions; Council Strategy Day events which included external speakers; online workshops; and commissioning and preparing a report which assessed our own performance as a regulator.

We feel we are now ready to consult on our next Strategic Plan, towards 2030.

The consultation

What is contained in the Strategic Plan, towards 2030

Headlines from the Draft GOsC Strategic Plan, towards 2030, are:

- **Vision: To be an inclusive, innovative regulator trusted by all.**
- Our priorities:
 - **Strengthening Trust**

We recognise that to regulate effectively and to ensure patient protection, we need to strengthen trust with our stakeholders. In order to achieve this, we plan to:

 - Explore the relationship between the GOsC and osteopaths and how this may impact on trust, and on patient safety.
 - Work in partnership with osteopaths, patients, educators and other stakeholders to model the values and behaviours expected of all healthcare professionals.
 - Undertake and assess the results of osteopaths, stakeholders and public/patient surveys so we can measure the impact of our activities over a period time and take appropriate action.
 - Ensure our regulatory approach is evidence-informed by bringing insight from the external environment into the GOsC and taking appropriate actions as a result.

- **Championing Inclusivity**

There is strength in diversity and inclusivity and we wish to maximise this within our work over the coming years. In order to achieve this, we plan to:

- Hold ourselves accountable, actively demonstrating the behaviours we hope to see across the profession and to stakeholders in relation to living our agreed values.
- Analyse the impact of our equality monitoring data, and taking appropriate actions as a result, so we can be confident our processes and policies are inclusive and not discriminatory.
- Ensure our Governance structure, and our staff are diverse, inclusive and able to be their true selves, so that we are more representative of a wider society.
- Identify actions to ensure the GOsC Values are continually embedded across our regulatory approach and reporting publicly on how our Values have informed the decisions we take.

- **Embracing Innovation**

We want to continually improve and be better in the future than we are today. We believe that embracing innovation is how we can achieve this, and therefore, we plan to:

- Support the development of osteopathic education to explore different and innovative ways it can meet the [Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training](#).
- Seek new ways of ensuring the osteopath and patient voice remains at the heart of all we do.
- Commission research to enhance the development of our work in education and training, standards and fitness to practise.
- Develop a strategy and action plan to become an Environmentally Social Responsible organisation and employer.

Please read the draft GOsC Strategic Plan [[link](#)] before answering the consultation questions below.

How to respond

The deadline for responses to this consultation is [Date to be added]

Please send us your views using this online form [link to be added] or if you would prefer, you can email your response to: info@osteopathy.org.uk.

You can request the response forms in other formats by emailing info@osteopathy.org.uk

Information in responses, including personal information, may need to be published or disclosed under the access to information regimes (mainly the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). We will publish a report about the consultation and the responses we have received. If you would prefer your name not to be made public, please indicate this when sending us your views.

The GOsC is a data controller registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. We use personal data to support our work as the regulatory body for osteopaths. We may share data with third parties to meet our statutory aims and objectives, and when using our powers and meeting our responsibilities under the Osteopaths Act and the associated rules made under the Act. We may use personal data to update the Register, administer and maintain the Register, process concerns, compile statistics and keep stakeholders updated with information about our work.

Consultation questions

General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) Strategic Plan, towards 2030.

About you

1. Your name (or your organisation if applicable) (optional)

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2. Please indicate below in what capacity you are responding:

GOsC Committee member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Osteopath	<input type="checkbox"/>
Student	<input type="checkbox"/>
Osteopathic educator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patient	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>

Diversity questionnaire

We would like to ask some questions about you. We are committed to promoting equality, valuing diversity and embracing inclusivity. We ask for this information to help us understand how representative the responses we receive are, and to ensure we are not inadvertently discriminating against any particular group.

It would be very helpful if you would provide this information. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer. Please complete the [diversity questionnaire](#) before completing the consultation questions below.

Questions

3. Do you agree that the Vision statement is appropriate for the GOsC Strategic Plan, towards 2030?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

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4. Do you agree that the three key priorities: Strengthening Trust, Championing Inclusivity, Embracing Innovation are appropriate for the GOsC Strategic Plan, towards 2030?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

We would be grateful if you would consider providing us with your views on each of the three priorities as set out in Section 4 of the Strategic Plan.

- **Key priority: Strengthening Trust**

5. Do you think the areas of focus under this priority are the right ones to achieve our strategic aims?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

6. Do you think there are any gaps within the areas of focus?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

7. Do you agree that the key actions are appropriate?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

8. Do you think there are any gaps within the key actions?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

9. Do you agree that the measures of success are appropriate?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

10. Do you think there are any gaps within the measures of success?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

• **Key priority: Championing Inclusivity**

11. Do you think these are the right areas of focus?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

12. Do you think there are any gaps within the areas of focus?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

13. Do you agree that the key actions are appropriate?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

14. Do you think there are any gaps within the key actions?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

15. Do you agree that the measures of success are appropriate?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

16. Do you think there are any gaps within the measures of success?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

• **Key priority: Embracing Innovation**

17. Do you think these are the right areas of focus?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

18. Do you think there are any gaps within the areas of focus?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

19. Do you agree that the key actions are appropriate?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

20. Do you think there are any gaps within the key actions?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

21. Do you agree that the measures of success are appropriate?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

22. Do you think there are any gaps within the measures of success?

Yes No

Please provide reasons for your response using the box below:

Welsh Language

23. Do you think the GOsC Strategic Plan, towards 2030 is likely to have any positive or negative effects on a person's opportunities to use the Welsh Language?

Positive Negative Don't know

a. Do you think the draft GOsC Strategic Plan, towards 2030 can be revised in any way in order to increase a person's opportunities to use the Welsh Language?

Yes No

If yes, please explain how the policy could be revised:

b. Do you have any other comments in relation to how the Strategic Plan might affect a person's opportunities to use the Welsh language:

24. Except for issues relating to the Welsh language, do you consider there are any equality and diversity implications for groups or individuals related to the draft Strategic Plan, towards 2030?

Yes No

If yes, please explain what could be done to address this.

25. Please provide additional comments below. Are there any other areas that the GOsC Strategic Plan, towards 2030, should address? If so, please set out what these areas are.

All feedback will be taken into consideration.

Thank you for your response to this consultation.