



Council
10 May 2022
Registration report

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	The paper provides an update on registration activity covering the six-month period from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.
Recommendation	To note the content of the report.
Financial and resourcing implications	Council will be aware that the primary source of income for the GOsC is from registration fees, and therefore any movement in the Register has an impact on our annual income.
Equality and diversity implications	The paper provides a range of data about our registrants which relates to equality and diversity, for example, age profile and gender balance.
Communications implications	None
Annex	None
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Key messages from the paper:

- At the end of March 2021 there were 5,471 osteopaths on the Register.
- The number of non-practising registrants stood at 160 at the end of March 2022, which was down on a peak of 330 during the height of the pandemic. The figure of 160 is now in line with our pre-pandemic average, demonstrating the Register has returned to a more traditional arrangement.
- Eight return to practise assessments were completed in the reporting period. Seven registration assessments, connected to internationally qualified applicants were completed.
- We have added into the report comparison data between the 2021-22 registration year and prior years to provide some context to the figures.
- We have commissioned Middlesex University to undertake registration data modelling based on data we hold. We hope this data will allow us to predict what the future of the Register will look like based on current data and student intake. We will present the results of this work to Council at a future meeting.
- We have assessed our response times against emails submitted to the student and registration email inboxes. We have an average response time of 4.6 days based on 535 emails received between 1 March 2022 and 15 April 2022.

Background

1. The registration report to Council provides detailed information about the statistics and activities which have been undertaken within the Registration team and covers the six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Registration data

Number of registrants and gender split

2. At the end of March 2022, the Register contained 5,471 osteopaths of which 51.29% of registrants are female (2,806) and 48.71% are male (2,665).
3. Ten years ago (March 2012) the Register contained 4,584 osteopaths, with the female to male registrant ratio being 49:51. Over this period the Register has grown by just under 900 osteopaths and there are now a greater proportion of female registrants compared to male registrants.
4. The age breakdown of the Register at the end of March 2022 was:

Age	Total registrants
Under or equal to 30	684
31-40	1,165
41-50	1,407
51-60	1,494
61-70	611
71-80	103
81+	7

5. It is worth noting that 13% of the register are aged 61+. While this does not represent an immediate risk to Council, it is something which we need to factor into the longer term financial planning for the GOsC, as a reasonable assumption is that a fair proportion of registrants in this group may leave the Register in the next 5-10 years.

Entrants to the Register

Total number of entrants to the Register	73
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of which

First time applications	57
Restorations to the Register	16

of which

Number of registrants living in the UK	62
Number of registrants living in the EU	7
Number of registrants living outside of the EU	4

6. In the year 2021-22, there were 274 entrants to the Register (265 in 2020-21) which is made up of new graduates, international applicants and restorations.

Removals from the Register

Total number of removals (excluding resignations, retirements and death)	17
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of which, those removed for

Non-compliance with CPD	1
Non-payment of fee	12
Unacceptable professional conduct	1
Under PII Rules	3
Fraudulent application to the Register	0

7. In the year 2021-22, there were 36 removals from the Register (58 in 2020-21). Since the reporting of statistics to Council began, 352 registrants have been removed from the Register. The data below sub-analyses the removal from the Register data into different categories including age and gender.

Removals from the Register (age)

8. Of those registrants removed from the Register, 74% (261 registrants) were below the age of 50, of which 63% (164 registrants) were below the age of 40.
9. The age range per reason for removal is set out in the table below.

Age range	Number of registrants	Removed for fee non-payment	Removed for CPD non-compliance	Removed under FtP proceedings	Removed under PII Rules or fraudulent application
20-29	60 (17%)	38 (24%)	19 (14%)	1 (4%)	2 (6%)
30-39	104 (30%)	48 (31%)	46 (33%)	2 (8%)	8 (24%)
40-49	97 (28%)	39 (25%)	38 (28%)	9 (38%)	11 (33%)
50-59	58 (16%)	21 (13%)	27 (20%)	6 (25%)	4 (12%)
60-69	24 (7%)	7 (4%)	6 (4%)	4 (17%)	7 (21%)
70+	9 (3%)	4 (3%)	2 (1%)	2 (8%)	1 (3%)
Total	352	157	138	24	33

Removals from the Register (gender)

10. The total number of registrants removed from the Register since reporting of statistics to Council began in October 2011, indicates 56:44 split between male to female registrants removed from the Register.

Gender	Number of registrants	Removed for fee non-payment	Removed for CPD non-compliance	Removed under FtP proceedings	Removed under PII Rules or fraudulent application
Male	197 (56%)	85	72	23	17
Female	155 (44%)	72	66	1	16
Total	352	157	138	24	33

Reasons for resignations

Total number of resignations	63
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of which, the reasons cited were

Moving overseas	16
Ill health/deceased	3
Career change	9
No longer practising	15
Cannot afford fee/meet renewal requirements/Covid 19	3
Taking a sabbatical	-
Family/personal reasons	6
Full-time study	1
Retired	3
Does not like GOSC/agree with policy	2
No reason provided	5

11. In the year 2021-22, there were 148 resignations from the Register (175 in 2020-21).

Non-practising registrants

Total number of registrants who are listed as non-practising	160
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12. Based on the statistics reported to Council since October 2011 up to the beginning of the pandemic, at any one-time GOSC has on average 154 registrants who are out of clinical contact with patients. The main reason for registrants to be listed as 'non-practising' is because of maternity leave.
13. During the pandemic we saw the number of registrants recorded as non-practising peak at 330 during the summer of 2020. This started to reduce as lockdown restrictions eased, and for the period from late summer of 2020 to spring 2021, we had around 220-230 osteopaths registered as non-practising.
14. The current number of non-practising registrants (160) is the lowest number we have recorded since March 2020 and it would suggest that we have returned to numbers more aligned with our past experience.

Return to practice activity

15. We offer a return to practice process to all applicants who have been away from UK practice for two years or more to support their transition back to practice. This process involves a self-assessment activity, which may then be followed by a meeting with two trained Return to Practice Reviewers.

Total number of applicants who went through the Return to Practice self-assessment process	8
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International Registration Assessment activity

16. A total of seven registration assessments were completed in the reporting period.

Number of Non-UK Review of Qualifications	6
Number of Further Evidence of Practice forms	0
Number of Assessments of Clinical Performance	1

17. In the year 2021-22, we have conducted 31 return to practice and international registration assessments (27 in 2020-21).

Registration modelling

18. We have commissioned Middlesex University to undertake registration data modelling using secondary source data that we hold. This involves drawing on the following key data sources:

- Student enrolment and progression data (from 2017-2022)
 - Number of osteopaths joining the Register (2009 to present)
 - Number of osteopaths leaving the Register (2009 to present)
 - Full population data of GOsC Register
19. We hope this data will allow us to predict what the future of the Register will look like based on current data and student intake. This work will focus on two main deliverable outcomes

Part 1: Analysis of key trends and report on 'What does the osteopathic sector look like currently 2009 to 2022', drawing particular on:

- Total size of register
- Patterns in numbers joining the register according to gender, age range and years spent on the Register (>1 to 16+ years) and year of qualification
- Patterns in final year students successfully graduating to award status
- Patterns in numbers leaving the register according to years on the Register prior to deregistration, reasons for leaving (resignation, deceased or administration reasons which would include CPD non-compliance, fee, or Fitness to Practice/Council) reasons cited in resignations and year of qualification

Part 2: Produce predictive modelling including infographics of what the osteopathic profession might look like in 3-5 years' time, including a range of scenarios (e.g. worst-case scenario and best-case scenario)

Taking the following into account:

- Numbers graduating with osteopathy award
 - Total size of register
 - Numbers joining the register
 - Numbers leaving the register and average age of retirement
 - Gender demographics
 - Age profile
 - Length of time likely to typically spent on the Register
20. The indicative timeline for this work is for Part 1 of the project to be completed by 30 April 2022 and for Part 2 to be completed by 31 May 2022. We will present the results of this work to Council at a future meeting.

Registration email response times

21. We have assessed our response times for emails received into the main student and registration inboxes from 1 March 2022 to 15 April 2022. We have identified that our average response time was 4.6 days based on 535 emails received.

22. Every email received receives an automated response confirming safe receipt of the message and advising that a member of the registration team will respond to the enquiry. Our service level agreement is five days to respond and based on the period under review, we are within that timeframe. We have also benchmarked our service level agreement against other healthcare regulators and, based on those who responded, five working days as a service level agreement for a response is the sector norm.

Recommendation: to note the content of the report.