

COVID-19 Update

Message from Dr Bill Gunnyeon: Appointment of Chief Executive and Registrar

I am pleased to let you know that at its meeting on 11 May 2020, the General Osteopathic Council agreed the appointment of Matthew Redford as its permanent Chief Executive and Registrar, effective from 1 June 2020. Matthew is well known to you having been the Council's Director of Registration and Resources for eight years and Acting Chief Executive and Registrar since September 2019, following the departure of Leonie Milliner.



Matthew has ably led the organisation over the past eight months providing stability and strong leadership during a turbulent period for the GOsC, not least most recently as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. His appointment brings to an end a period of uncertainty for GOsC and allows full attention to be directed to the financial and other challenges facing the organisation as we plan for working life in a very different world. I look forward very much to working with Matthew and his team as together we lead GOsC forward, ensuring we continue to work in partnership with osteopaths to protect patients and the public; ensuring the highest standards in osteopathic education; and supporting the continued growth and development of the osteopathic profession.

This is a challenging time for individuals and organisations across the UK and I am only too aware of the difficulties and uncertainties that, as osteopaths, each one of you is currently facing. Be assured that we are doing whatever we can to support you and we will continue to work with you as we move through the current situation towards a world where patients can safely benefit from the experience, skills and expertise that they so clearly value.

Bill Gunnyeon

Chair, General Osteopathic Council

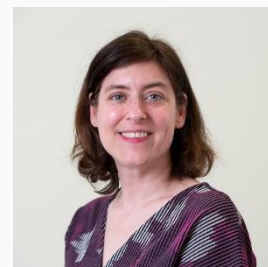
The latest COVID-19 guidance from the GOsC

You can find all our latest updates plus key advice from government and other useful information collated together on the [COVID-19 section of our website](#).

**CORONAVIRUS:
LATEST
GUIDANCE**

Using professional judgement

The GOsC reminds osteopaths of the importance of following infection control guidance and using professional judgement when considering treatment options with patients. Fiona Browne, GOsC's Director of Education, Standards and Development, has provided an overview of our [infection control guidance](#) and the use of professional judgement. [Read more](#)



GOsC Council meets virtually

GOsC held a virtual Council meeting on Monday 11 May, with Dr Bill Gunnyeon chairing the meeting. The focus of the meeting was the consideration of the impact of, and the GOsC response to, the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the meeting, Bill said: 'The global pandemic has presented challenges for every organisation and it was important for Council members to assess the impact on the GOsC and notably, on our overarching objective to protect the public and patients'. [Read more](#)



Learn with others and stay connected

We have been asked by a number of osteopaths about how they can do their CPD and especially 'learning with others' during the current situation. We are keen to help you keep in touch with others in this time of social isolation. Indeed engagement, support and community are key features of the CPD scheme and there are lots of ways to continue to do CPD, with others and for free. [Find out more](#)



Osteopaths warned over COVID-19 advertising

The GOsC continues to warn osteopaths not to claim or imply that osteopathic treatment could help boost the immune system in patients suffering from COVID-19. Claiming in any promotional material or online content that osteopathy has a part to play in the frontline care of patients with COVID-19, is likely to breach [Advertising Standards Authority \(ASA\) guidance](#) or trading standards law (which is enforced by local councils). [Read the news story](#)



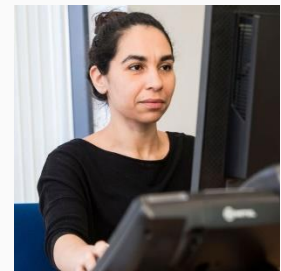
Reporting your CPD

Unlike the previous CPD scheme, there is no longer a need to submit an annual CPD summary form with all the details of your CPD activities; you now just need to declare the number of hours you have done on your Renewal of Registration form (available on the [o zone](#)) and say which features of the scheme you have completed that year. Remember, this CPD should be recorded and reflected upon. [Read more](#)



Looking after your mental health

Taking the time to take care of your own mental health and wellbeing is always important, and even more so during these challenging circumstances. We have collated some free resources that you might find helpful. [Read more](#)



Don't forget your insurance

You need Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) whether you're seeing patients or not. This legislation protects patients and ensures you're indemnified against liabilities. If you change your status to 'non-practising' (ie you're not seeing or speaking to patients), you need to have 'run-off' cover. You'll need to discuss this with your insurance provider. Also, you will need to make sure that you update all your insurers about your intention to return to practice and how you will practise, if you make this decision. [Find out more](#)



Updating your websites

We've been getting a large number of requests for Registration Marks from osteopaths who have been using this time to update their websites. If you want to promote your GOsC registration online, individual osteopaths can apply for an 'I'm Registered' Mark, which includes your unique GOsC registration number, and if you're the principal osteopath of a group practice you can apply for a 'We're Registered' Mark. [Find out more via the o zone](#)



Any queries or feedback?

If you have any COVID-19 related queries, you may find the answer on the [COVID-19 section of our website](#). If you can't find the answer you are looking for, or if you have suggestions or feedback for us, please email: covid19@osteopathy.org.uk.