



Education and Registration Standards Committee
2 October 2014
Fitness to Practise Annual Report

Classification	Public
Purpose	For discussion
Issue	Annual reporting on fitness to practise issues is a statutory requirement and an important part of ensuring transparency and openness in the performance of the GOSc's functions.
Recommendation	To note the Annual Fitness to Practise at Annex A, and to consider its needs in relation to the receipt of information from the Regulation department.
Financial and resourcing implications	None
Equality and diversity implications	Routine monitoring of equality data about complainants will form part of our ongoing quality assurance of the fitness to practise process.
Communications implications	The Fitness to Practise Report will be published on the GOSc website.
Annexes	A. Fitness to Practise Annual Report 2013-14 B. Article from <i>the osteopath</i> magazine April/May 2014
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Background

1. Section 22(13) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 requires the GOsC to publish an annual report setting out:
 - a. the names of those osteopaths in respect of whom allegations have been proved to be well founded;
 - b. the nature of the allegations; and
 - c. the steps taken by the Professional Conduct Committee in respect of those osteopaths.
2. The report at Annex A covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.
3. The report follows the format used in previous reports, and reflects the statutory requirements of Section 22 of the Act.
4. In particular, the report deals only with the allegations found proved by the Professional Conduct Committee.¹
5. The Fitness to Practise Reports are published on the GOsC Website.
6. In addition, the terms of reference of the Education and Registration Standards Committee include to:

'Monitor reports from fitness to practise panels and information from other relevant sources in developing policy on pre-registration education.'

Discussion

7. Council receives annual reports from each of the three statutory fitness to practise committees: the Investigating Committee; the Health Committee and the Professional Conduct Committee. Council is scheduled to receive the latest annual reports at its meeting on 6 November 2014.
8. These annual committee reports do not report on the financial year. For historic reasons, the reporting period for the Investigating Committee is 1 October to 30 September, and 1 July to 30 September, in the case of the Health Committee and Professional Conduct Committee.
9. These committee reports provide more detail on the numbers and nature of the allegations considered by the respective committees; the time taken to complete respective stages of the fitness to practise process; and comment on trends in the casework identified by members of these committees.

¹ Under section 22(14) of the Osteopaths Act 1993, an osteopath against whom allegations have been investigated and not proved to be well founded, can request a statement of this fact to be included in the Annual Report.

10. Council also receives a quarterly fitness to practise report from the Executive, accompanied by a dashboard summary of key statistical information relating to the indicators of efficiency, effectiveness and economy agreed by Council in January 2014.
11. An article about the GOSc's fitness to practise procedures is routinely included in the April/May edition of *the osteopath* magazine each year(see Annex B for the 2014 article). This article sets out statistical information about the work of the three statutory committees in the previous financial year, together with an overview of the GOSc's fitness to practise process, and a high-level outline of some of the most serious cases considered by the Professional Conduct Committee.
12. The Education and Registration Standards Committee receives a report each year on fitness to practise matters which is intended to inform its policy-making activities.
13. The Executive is keen to engage with the Education and Registration Standards Committee to consider how the value to be derived from these annual fitness to practise reports could usefully be maximised.

Recommendation: to note the Annual Fitness to Practise at Annex A, and to consider its needs in relation to the receipt of information from the Regulation department.