



Addendum to items 4 and 5

Osteopathic Practice Committee

12 March 2015

Draft PCC Practice Note on Acting in the Public Interest

Draft PCC Practice Note on Admissibility of Character Evidence

1. Views on the two draft Practice Notes for the Professional Conduct Committee were sought from the GOSc's Fitness to Practise Users Group.
2. Only two responses were received, which indicates that the draft Practice Notes were considered uncontroversial.

Views from registrant representative

3. A representative who acts for osteopaths in fitness to practise proceedings made the following comment:

"Thank you for including me in the deliberations in respect of the new draft Practice Notes.

May I say as a general point that I think the opinions are drafted clearly, succinctly and in a form which leads to no ambiguity. The identity of the leading Counsel is unfortunately not included but he or she has done an excellent job.

In general both documents appear to lay out the generality of the situation much as I believe it currently is. In respect of the document concerning the Public Interest I felt that there was a modest tightening of the current arrangements whilst I really could find no significant alteration in the document concerning Admissibility of Good Character Evidence.

As always, it is important that 'Acting in the Public Interest' does not become any sort of witch hunt. I was reassured, in Point 17, that there is emphasis on the importance of not making too much of an isolated episode of misconduct against (often) many years of blameless, high quality, careful practice.

Overall, I do not believe that, from the perspective of someone involved in the defence of osteopaths accused of Unprofessional Conduct, that the clarifications will in themselves cause any significant difficulty."

Views from Council representative

4. A representative who acts for the Council in fitness to practise proceedings made the following comment:

"The two practice notes are helpful and I don't have any comments to make about either document."

Recommendation: to note the comments on the draft Practice Notes.