



**Policy and Education Committee**

**16 June 2022**

**Update on registration assessment and registration assessor training**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For noting
<b>Issue</b>	The paper provides an update on registration assessment activity and recent registration assessor training.
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the update on Registration Assessment activity including recent application and assessment numbers, and assessor training.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	Costs of activities undertaken and planned will be from planned budgets.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	We consider any reasonable adjustment requests from international applicants as part of their registration application process and also from registration assessors as we roll out training.
<b>Communications implications</b>	We will be responding to feedback from the Registration Assessors arising from the training day.
<b>Annex</b>	None
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## Key messages

- We have an established registration pathway for internationally qualified applicants. In the quarter to 30 April, we have received fewer enquiries, although our numbers tend to low in any event.
- We held a training session event for registration assessors on 13 May 2022. The session was run by former osteopath, Manoj Mehta.
- The session was informed by feedback from the Registration Assessors.
- The session was positive, with feedback from the assessors that they seek clarification around clinical responsibility, insurance and the appeals process.

## Background

1. The process for applying to join the GOsC register for osteopaths who trained outside of the UK is set out on our [website](#) and includes the following stages:
  - Step 1: Assessment of non-UK qualification
  - Step 2: Further Evidence of Practice (FEP): This asks about the applicant's practice and experience and includes case histories.
  - Step 3: Assessment of Clinical Performance (ACP): This practical involves real patients in a clinic setting.
  - Step 4: Completion of registration application forms
2. We use a panel of Registration Assessors to undertake assessments on our behalf, and provide periodic training for these assessors.
3. The process is intended to protect the integrity of the register by ensuring that only those who demonstrate the ability to practice in accordance with the [Osteopathic Practice Standards](#) are admitted to the register.
4. This paper provides a summary of recent activity in this area, including training of assessors.

## Discussion

### *Recent activity – applications and assessments*

5. For the period 1 January 2022 to 30 April 2022, we have had fewer enquiries than in previous similar periods, but when we do receive enquiries they tend to be seeking clarity regarding some element of the first stage of the process.

6. Applications have been received from applicants in Australia, France, Italy, Canada and Belgium. So far in 2022, one FEP application has been undertaken, and no ACPs.
7. Two overseas applicants have been registered within this period one as a result of an ACP in October 2021, and one on successful completion of a period of adaptation with an Osteopathic Education Provider.
8. We will continue to explore whether there are alternative and/or streamlined ways of handling applications from internationally qualified osteopaths.

#### *Assessor training*

9. We commissioned former osteopath, educator and Registration Assessor, Manoj Mehta to undertake some assessor training on our behalf. The assessors were surveyed to explore areas in which training was felt to be required so that the event could be tailored to the group's specific needs and priorities. The option of online or face to face training was offered, with the majority preferring a face-to-face event. This took place at Osteopathy House on 13 May 2022. Nine out of the twelve assessors attended, with one attending online.
10. The training involved an overview of the whole process, drawing on the insights of more experienced assessors, and some focussed discussions on specific case scenarios based on actual (anonymised) applications.
11. Feedback was positive with an appreciation of the face-to-face nature of the training, and the opportunity to discuss scenarios with colleagues in the room. A summary report has been prepared which outlines issues for further consideration and recommendations to take forward. Headline areas from the report include the Assessors seeking clarification around matters of clinical responsibility, insurance and the appeals process.
12. The Executive will be writing to the registration assessors directly to respond to the feedback and to remind the assessors of the previously agreed position in relation to each area.

#### **Recommendations:**

To note the update on Registration Assessment activity including recent application and assessment numbers, and assessor training.