



## Policy and Education Committee

6 June 2024

### London School of Osteopathy – Visitor approval (reserved)

<b>Classification</b>	Private
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	The appointment of the Visitors for London School of Osteopathy Recognised Qualification Review.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To agree the appointment of Ceira Kinch, Sandra Stephenson and Sue Kendall-Seatter as Visitors for review of London School of Osteopathy’s following programmes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master of Osteopathy (MOst)</li><li>• Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst)</li></ul></li></ol>
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The costs of the review are budgeted for within the 2023-24 financial year and are incorporated in our current contract with Mott MacDonald at a cost of £22,083.93.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	Equality and diversity issues are explored as part of the RQ renewal process and are explicitly referenced as part of the <a href="#">Graduate Outcomes and Standards for Education and Training (2022)</a> and in the review criteria set out in the <a href="#">Mott MacDonald Interim Quality Assurance Handbook</a> .
<b>Communications implications</b>	The review specification is shared with LSO, with Mott MacDonald and will be shared with the Visiting Team when they are appointed, and it is publicly available.
<b>Annex</b>	None
<b>Author</b>	Banye Kanon

## Key Messages

- The London School of Osteopathy (LSO) currently provides qualifications in Master of Osteopathy (MOst) and Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst) the recognition period of which is 1 September 2019 with no fixed expiry.
- This paper seeks the approval of the visitors from the Policy and Education Committee.

## Background

1. The London School of Osteopathy currently provides the following qualifications the recognition period of which is 1 September 2019 with no fixed expiry:
  - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
  - Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst)
2. The visit has been scheduled to take place from Saturday 19 October - Monday 21 October 2024.
3. The Committee is asked to approve a team of appropriately qualified Visitors under s12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993, taking into account the review specification at the Annex.

## Discussion

### *Review Specification*

4. The review specification was originally agreed at the October 2023 Committee meeting. [The review specification was updated and agreed at the Committee's last meeting in March 2024.](#)

### *Appointment of Visitors*

5. Section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993 provides that 'The Education Committee may appoint Visitors to report to the Education Committee on the nature and quality of instruction and such other matters as he was required to report on by the Committee.'
6. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of LSO's qualifications as outlined in the RQ Review Specification in the Annex.
7. The proposed Visit Team is:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ceira Kinch	Osteopath	ESO
Sandra Stephenson	Lay	Independent
Sue Kendall-Seatter	Lay	Former BCNO

8. These recommended Visitors are members of the Mott MacDonald/GOsC Visitor pool (comprising of lay and osteopathic visitors) administered by Mott MacDonald who undertake selection, training and appraisal of all visitors on our behalf. All visitors are scheduled to participated in training delivered by the Mott MacDonald prior to the visit.
9. We have checked that the proposed osteopathic visitors are currently registered. We have also checked the Visiting Team with LSO who have confirmed that there are no issues for the Committee to consider in appointing the team. The proposed Visit Team has not declared any conflict of interests in undertaking the review of LSO. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these visitors.
10. The current make up of the team is one osteopathic visitor and two lay visitors. As per the Mott MacDonald GOsC Interim Quality Assurance Handbook, there is no requirement stipulated as to the make-up of the visiting team for an RQ or IRR visit, in terms of the number of osteopath and lay visitors.
11. As set out in section 12 of the Osteopaths Act 1993, there are limitations to appointment of visitors due to conflict of interest, whereby:
  - (3) *No person appointed as a visitor may exercise his functions under this section in relation to--*
    - (a) *any place at which he regularly gives instruction in any subject; or*
    - (b) *any institution with which he has a significant connection.*
12. The GOsC QA visitor job description sets out the following essential criteria for all visitors (osteopath and lay):
  - Experience in quality assurance
  - Broad experience of academic/Higher Education management at a provider level
  - Experience of chairing meetings and report writing
  - Excellent verbal and written communication skills
  - Experience of analysing information and data, forming evidence-based conclusions and recommendations
  - Excellent report writing skills and ability to meet deadlines for publication
  - Ability to plan and undertake an investigation, capturing required information against the review method and scope, with the ability to interpret and analyse the information to draw reliable conclusions.
  - Ability to listen
  - Be collaborative and influential
  - Ability to apply reasoned argument and narrative
  - Be committed to excellence in education.

13. Additionally, osteopath visitors must be a registered osteopath and be able to demonstrate knowledge of the GOsC's Osteopathic Practice Standards and of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.
14. Whilst Mott MacDonald QA visiting teams have to date consisted of two osteopath and one lay visitor, provided there is a minimum of one osteopath visitor, the essential criteria for all visitors provides assurance that the visiting team holds the necessary skills, experience and qualities to undertake a robust quality assurance visit. Mott are content to recommend the Visitors as an appropriately qualified team to undertake this role.

**Recommendations:**

1. To agree the appointment of Ceira Kinch, Sandra Stephenson and Sue Kendall-Seatter as Visitors for review of London School of Osteopathy's following programmes:
  - Master of Osteopathy (MOst)
  - Bachelor of Osteopathy (BOst)