



## **Policy and Education Committee**

**7 October 2021**

### **BCNO Group (ESO-BCOM Merged Institution) Updated Initial RQ Review and Appointment of Visitors (reserved)**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	<p>The BCNO Group is seeking initial recognition of qualifications for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost),</li><li>• BSc (Hons) Osteopathy, (BSc (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine validated by Plymouth University,</li></ul> <p>and for the existing qualifications previously awarded by the BCOM and ESO and from September 2021 to be awarded by BCNO Group namely the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Master of Osteopathy and BSc (Hons) Osteopathy (formerly awarded by the ESO)</li><li>• Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) (formerly awarded by the BCOM)</li></ul>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To note the updates in regard to the establishment of the BCNO Group.</li><li>2. To agree the updated review specification for the review of the new BCNO Group's Recognised Qualifications (RQ).</li><li>3. To agree to appoint Stephen Hartshorn, Simeon London and Phillip Stephenson as Visitors for the RQs being offered by the BCNO Group.</li></ol>
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The RQ visit of the new merged curriculum will incur costs of c£15,000.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	Equality, diversity and inclusion will be explored as part of the RQ visit.
<b>Communications implications</b>	This paper will be shared with Mott MacDonald and the BCNO Group will be publicly available on the GOSC website.
<b>Annex</b>	Annex - BCNO Group updated RQ Visit Specification
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## Background

1. As was reported to the Committee at its private meeting of 29 October 2020, the European School of Osteopathy (ESO) and the British College of Osteopathic Medicine are merging. Further updates were provided to the Committee at its private meeting of 29 June 2021, with progress updates on the BCOM/ESO merger and next steps, and an update on the existing matters in the institutions. This included the development of a new joint curriculum, with the aim of delivering this at each institution from September 2022.
2. A draft RQ specification was approved by the Committee at its June meeting and it was confirmed that the University of Plymouth will be the validating body, with a validation event planned for October 2021. It was also report that BCNO Ltd (BCOM) would be the lead in the merged BCOM/ESO entity and the target date for the merger was 1 September 2021.
3. It is confirmed that the merger took place as planned from 1 September 2021. This paper provides an updated RQ specification (see Annex) and seeks Committee approval of the updated RA specification and the visitors.

## Discussion

4. The RQ Initial Application has been submitted to and reviewed by the Executive. The application confirms the merger of BCOM and ESO have formed the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy Ltd (the BCNO Group) which will be the legal entity. The full title of the new awards that will be offered by the BCNO Group are:
  - Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost).
  - B.Ost Med (Exit Award);
  - BSc(Hons) Osteopathy- (modified attendance)
5. Mott MacDonald will conduct the review on behalf of the GOsC, based on the review specification agreed by the Committee. The visit will take place between 11th – 13th January 2022.
6. The University of Plymouth will be the validating University for the new programmes listed above. The University of Plymouth have agreed to teach out the BCOM's current RQ M.Ost programme and Bucks New University have agreed to teach out the ESO's current RQ M.Ost programme. The last cohort on both programmes were recruited in September 2021 and are expected to graduate in 2025.
7. The BCNO Group will subsume and teach-out the BCOM's current RQ programmes which do not have a fixed expiry date and the ESO current RQ programmes, the approval of which, is due to expire in August 2024.
8. The RQ specification has been updated and is included for Committee agreement at the Annex. Updates relate to the background paragraphs and the

qualifications and the review scope to support clarity.

#### *Next steps*

9. The review specification may be subject to change due to changing circumstances prior to the review. Any changes to the specification will be notified to the Committee for agreement where necessary.

#### *Appointment of Visitors*

10. 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 was required to report on by the Committee'.
11. The Committee are invited to appoint Visitors to participate in the review of the BCNO Group's proposed qualification.
12. The proposed Visit Team is:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Stephen Hartshorn	Osteopath	Swansea University
Simeon London	Osteopath	Formally University College of Osteopathy
Phillip Stephenson	Independent Lay Visitor	No current academic affiliations – works primarily as QA visitor in relation to delivery of NMC programmes for Mott MacDonald

13. These recommended Visitors are members of Mott MacDonald/GOsC Visitor pool (comprising of lay and osteopaths) administered by Mott MacDonald who undertake selection, training and appraisal of all Visitors on our behalf.
14. Due to the unavailability of lay visitors from the current GOsC pool of visitors, Mott MacDonald have selected an alternative lay visitor who is contracted to conduct visits for the Nursing and Midwifery Council. His background is in secondary education, consultancy, and education inspection in a variety of contexts in the UK and internationally, and he has been engaged by Mott MacDonald since 2018. He has undertaken sixteen NMC reviews for Mott MacDonald over the last year. All Visitors are scheduled to participate in training on the GOsC review delivered by the Mott MacDonald prior to the visit.
15. We have checked that the proposed osteopathic visitors are currently registered. We have also checked the Visit Team with the BCNO Group which has confirmed that there are no issues for the Committee to consider in appointing the team. The proposed Visit Team has not declared any conflict in undertaking the review of the BCNO Group. There is no known reason why we should not appoint these visitors.

**Recommendation:**

1. To note the updates in regard to the establishment of the BCNO Group.
2. To agree the updated review specification for the review of the new BCNO Group's Recognised Qualifications (RQ).
3. To agree to appoint Stephen Hartshorn, Simeon London and Phillip Stephenson as Visitors for the RQs being offered by the BCNO Group.