



**Council**  
**9 July 2020**  
**GOsC consultation approach position statement**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For approval
<b>Issue</b>	<p>The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) identified through the performance review process that we do not have a written document which outlines our approach to public consultations.</p> <p>This paper outlines our consultation approach.</p>
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	To approve the GOsC position statement on its consultation approach.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	None arising from this paper.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	These are addressed within the consultation approach principles.
<b>Communications implications</b>	The GOsC position statement on its consultation approach sets out our approach to communications and engagement on consultations and the statement will be made available on our public website.
<b>Annex(es)</b>	GOsC consultation approach position statement
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## Background

1. The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) identified through the performance review process that we do not have a written document which outlines our approach to public consultations.
2. We were able to demonstrate to the PSA that our approach to consultations has been consistent, open and transparent; however, we recognise that we should describe our consultation approach publicly.

## Discussion

3. Attached at the Annex is our consultation approach position statement which sets out five key principles informed by best practice. The five key principles, which form the basis of the consultation approach position statement, are summarised briefly below:

Formative	Consultations should be conducted at an early stage to be meaningful
Authentic	Consultations should be truly seeking views and scrutiny
Accessible	Consultations should be made available for anyone to respond
Inclusive	Consultations should consider the audience(s) needs
Transparent	An analysis of consultation responses and outcomes should be made

4. Council will be invited to reflect on the principles and discuss the consultation approach position statement.

**Recommendation:** To approve the GOsC consultation approach position statement.

## General Osteopathic Council consultation approach position statement

1. The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) is the statutory healthcare regulator for osteopathy in the UK. We work with the public and the osteopathic profession to promote patient safety by setting, maintaining and developing standards of osteopathic practice and conduct.
2. We develop policies and guidance and it is important that these are informed by evidence and views which are presented to us by our stakeholders. We believe that developing policy and guidance is done best in partnership with our stakeholders and therefore effective, meaningful consultation is fundamental to our approach.
3. The Osteopaths Act 1993, as Amended, sets out specifically where the GOsC is required to consult:
  - a. Before making any rules concerning provisional registration;
  - b. Council to consult the Education Committee on any matters related to Education, training, examinations or test of competence;
  - c. Council to consult the Education Committee before deciding whether to recognise a qualification;
  - d. Council to consult registered osteopaths and those it deems appropriate before making or varying rules relating to Continuing Professional Development;
  - e. Council to consult representatives of registered osteopaths before issuing the Code or varying it.
4. This consultation position statement sets out our approach to running consultations based on five key principles. This position statement has been developed having due regard to the 'Gunning Principles'<sup>1</sup>, the Cabinet Office Consultation Principles<sup>2</sup> and best practice principles as outlined by The Consultation Institute Consultation Charter<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consultationinstitute.org/the-gunning-principles-implications/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mk0consultation9e7bb.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/The-Consultation-Charter-2017-edition.pdf>

## General Osteopathic Council Consultation Principles

5. The following table outlines the GOsC consultation principles:

<b>Principle 1:</b> Formative	<p>Our consultations should be undertaken at an early stage to ensure the policy or guidance document can be influenced by the stakeholders we are consulting.</p> <p>We will ensure that we undertake initiatives and activities as part of pre-consultation engagement to inform the development of our policy and guidance documents.</p>
<b>Principle 2:</b> Authentic	<p>Our consultations should be authentic and be truly seeking views and scrutiny, rather than either simply consulting for the sake of consulting, or to have been seen to have consulted.</p> <p>We will demonstrate there is a purpose to the consultation and ensure that we are asking questions on areas where final decisions have not already been reached.</p>
<b>Principle 3:</b> Accessible	<p>Our consultations should be open for any individual to respond. We will ensure that our consultations last for 12 weeks unless there are good reasons not to do so and, in those situations, we will provide a clear explanation as to why that is the case.</p>
<b>Principle 4:</b> Inclusive	<p>We will ensure our consultations are accessible to all stakeholders and, where necessary, we will take steps to ensure we are able to receive responses in a variety of different formats where that is helpful to respondents.</p> <p>In developing our consultation strategy, we will consider our consultation audiences, and use a targeted approach to reach those with a greater interest in the subject matter and those it may be most relevant to or who will be more directly affected.</p> <p>We will ensure that we have considered equality, diversity and inclusion as part of our consultation strategy development. This will include ensuring our consultations use clear and concise language and are free of jargon.</p> <p>We will ensure that our consultations are not overly long and try to ensure that they are easy to understand.</p>
<b>Principle 5:</b> Transparent	<p>We will publish an analysis of consultation responses and we will demonstrate where and how the consultation feedback has informed our thinking.</p>