

**GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL**  
**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE**

**Case No: 926**

**Professional Conduct Committee Meeting**

**DECISION**

**Case of:** Louise Sexton

**Registration Number:** 2801

**Committee:** Sue Ware (Chair)  
Robert Thomas (Osteopath)  
Andrew Howard (Lay)

**Legal Assessor:** Peter Steel

**Clerk to the Committee:** Sajinee Padhiar

This case has been considered by the Professional Conduct Committee at a private meeting without the necessity for a hearing, under the procedure set out in Rule 8 of the General Osteopathic Council (Professional Conduct Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2000.

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**Allegation:**

The allegation is that Louise Sexton ("the Registrant") has been guilty of unacceptable professional conduct, contrary to section 20(1)(a) of the Osteopaths Act 1993, in that:

1. From 1 December 2023 to 24 April 2024, inclusive of both dates ("the Relevant Period"), the Registrant:
  - a. was registered and/or practised as an osteopath; and
  - b. failed to obtain and maintain insurance cover as required by Rule 3 of the General Osteopathic Council (Indemnity Arrangements) Rules Order 2015 ("the Order");
2. During the Relevant Period, the Registrant:

- a. knew that in holding herself out to the public as a registered osteopath, she was required to hold professional indemnity insurance; and/or
  - b. treated patients despite not having appropriate professional indemnity insurance, thereby acting to the potential detriment of such patients and placing them at risk;
3. The Registrant's conduct as set out at paragraph 1(b) and/or paragraph 2(b):
  - a. was misleading; and/or
  - b. demonstrated a lack of integrity.

## **Decision**

### **Background**

1. The Committee was asked to consider whether it was appropriate to deal with these allegations under the procedure set out in Rule 8 of the General Osteopathic Council (Professional Conduct Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2000. The Rule 8 procedure permits the Committee to deal with a case by agreement without a hearing before the Professional Conduct Committee. The sanction proposed in this case was an admonishment. The background is as follows.
2. Registrants are required to maintain professional indemnity insurance ('PII'). This case arose as a result of a self-referral by the Registrant on 30 April 2024.
3. In summary, the Registrant was first registered with the GOsC on 11 May 1999 and has held continuous registration with the GOsC since that date. On 30 April 2024, the Registrant emailed the GOsC to advise that her indemnity insurance had lapsed. She asked for advice on what to do next.
4. The Registrant stated that the lapse in her insurance had been an honest mistake [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The Registrant was subsequently able to arrange to have her insurance backdated, so that there had been no uninsured period.
5. The GOsC had obtained a statement from Ben Chambers, its Registration Manager, dated 16 October 2024, which confirmed the Registration department's dealings with the Registrant as set out above.

6. The bundle before the Committee also contained a statement dated 22 November 2024 from Georgina Leelodharry, the Head of Operations at the Institute of Osteopathy ("iO") in which she confirmed that despite several reminder emails and a reminder text message between 9 and 30 November 2023, the Registrant had failed to renew her iO Osteopathy Insurance policy which had then expired on 30 November 2023.
7. Georgina Leelodharry stated that the Registrant had contacted iO by telephone on 24 April 2024. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] She had discovered she had missed the expiry of her Osteopathy Insurance policy, and that she wanted to rectify this as soon as possible.
8. The Registrant subsequently applied to re-instate her insurance cover. iO informed her on 9 May 2024 that her Osteopathy Insurance would be approved retrospectively for the missed period of cover and sent the Registrant her policy the following day.
9. The Registrant provided a statement to the GOsC dated 26 April 2024 in which she indicated that although she could proffer no excuse for her lapse in organisation, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] which had led her to miss the fact she had not renewed her insurance.
10. On 20 June 2025, the Registrant signed a Rule 8 statement, admitting the allegations in full and admitting that they constituted unacceptable professional conduct. She confirmed that she had the opportunity to seek advice and accepted the sanction of admonishment without requiring a hearing. The Registrant also accepted that this would form part of her fitness to practise record.

## **Legal advice**

11. The Legal Assessor advised the Committee that, to deal with this matter under the Rule 8 procedure, it must be satisfied that the Registrant fully admits the allegation and also admits that the factual particulars amount to unacceptable professional conduct. The Committee must itself be satisfied that the facts admitted amount to unacceptable professional conduct. The Committee must also be satisfied that the Registrant accepts that admonishment is an appropriate sanction and that she does not wish the case to be dealt with at a hearing.
12. The Committee should have regard to GOsC's Practice Note on the Rule 8 procedure ('the Practice Note'). That gives guidance on the type of cases which are and are not suitable for this procedure. Taking into account this

guidance and GOsC's Hearings and Sanctions Guidance, it must be satisfied that the proposed sanction of admonishment is appropriate and proportionate.

### **Finding on allegation**

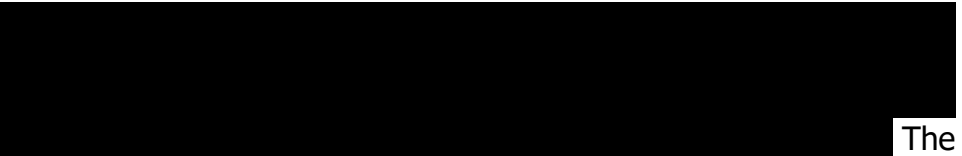
13. The Registrant signed a Rule 8 Statement on 20 June 2025 in which she admitted the allegations. She accepted that she was guilty of unacceptable professional conduct, and she accepted the sanction of admonishment. The Registrant was content for the matter to be dealt with without a hearing.
14. In light of the Registrant's admissions in her Rule 8 statement, the Committee was satisfied that she accepted all the factual particulars in the allegation. The Committee bore in mind that maintaining PII cover is a statutory requirement. The Committee also noted that the GOsC's PII Guidance (2020) states that an osteopath's failure to have insurance is not an 'administrative' failure, it is serious and can potentially have wider consequences for the wider public interest including maintaining proper professional standards of conduct and maintaining public confidence in the profession. The Committee was therefore satisfied that the Registrant's failure to do so case amounted to unacceptable professional conduct.
15. It therefore found the allegations, including unacceptable professional conduct, proved in full.

### **Sanction**

16. Having had regard to the Registrant's admissions contained in the Rule 8 Statement, as well as the Practice Note and the Hearings and Sanctions Guidance, the Committee was satisfied that a sanction of admonishment is appropriate and proportionate in this case.
17. The Committee had regard to paragraph 33 of the Practice Note. It noted that in determining whether admonishment is an appropriate sanction, the Committee should take into account the following:
  - a. whether there is evidence to suggest that the Registrant poses any danger to patients or the public;
  - b. whether the Registrant has shown insight into their failings;
  - c. whether the behaviour was an isolated incident;
  - d. whether there has been any repetition of the behaviour complained about;
  - e. whether the Registrant acted under duress;
  - f. whether the Registrant has genuinely expressed remorse;
  - g. whether there is evidence that the Registrant has taken rehabilitative/corrective steps; or

h. whether the Registrant has previous good history.

18. Save for the factor listed at 'e', which is clearly not relevant here, the Committee considered that all the above factors pointed towards an admonishment being the appropriate sanction.

19.  The Committee noted that the Registrant had maintained insurance for some 28 years without a previous lapse in cover, and this was an isolated incident.

20. The Registrant had taken steps to rectify the position and prevent any risk to patients by obtaining retrospective cover. She had expressed her regret at having overlooked the need to renew her insurance.

21. The Committee was satisfied that in the light of this experience there was little, if any, risk of repetition and that an admonishment would adequately meet the public interest in this case.

22. The Committee therefore imposed a sanction of admonishment on the Registrant.

*Section 22(13) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 requires this Committee to publish a report that sets out the names of those osteopaths who have had Allegations found against them, the nature of the Allegations and the steps taken by the Committee in respect of the osteopaths so named.*