

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

Case No: 436/5208

Interim Suspension Order Hearing

DECISION

Case of:	Mr Mark Robson
Committee:	Ms Richard Davies (Chair) Ms Colette Neville Mr Nick Woodhead
Legal Assessor:	Mr Andrew Davies
Representation for Council:	Mr Jonathan Goodwin
Representation for Osteopath:	None present
Clerk to the Committee:	Miss Vanissa Taylor
Date of Hearing:	Tuesday 13 August 2013

Summary of Decision:

On 2 August 2013 the Investigating Committee decided that Mr Robson had a case to answer in relation to the following allegation:

It is alleged that Mr Mark Robson has been guilty of Unacceptable Professional Conduct, contrary to section 20(1)(a) of the Osteopaths Act 1993, in that:

1. During the course of an osteopathic session held at his home during the year 2000, he crossed professional boundaries and used sexualised behaviour when treating a 16 year old female, A.
2. Whilst a member of the teaching staff at X, he crossed professional boundaries and used sexualised behaviour with a student, B.
3. Whilst providing osteopathic treatment and counselling to B, he crossed professional boundaries and used sexualised behaviour.

4. Whilst a member of the teaching staff at X, he crossed professional boundaries and used sexualised behaviour with a student, C.
5. Whilst providing osteopathic treatment and counselling to C, he crossed professional boundaries and used sexualised behaviour.

The Professional Conduct Committee (the Committee) carefully considered the documents produced for the hearing today; the email dated 12 August 2013 from Mr Robson's solicitors; and the oral submissions from Mr Goodwin on behalf of the GOsC. The Committee accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor, and followed the guidance on Interim Suspension Orders produced by the GOsC.

The Committee decided that it was necessary to make an Interim Suspension Order ("ISO"), in order to protect members of the public.

The Interim Suspension Order will be for the period requested by Mr Goodwin on behalf of GOsC, namely 12 months to 12 August 2014, in order to allow the investigation to be completed and the case to proceed to a final hearing. If the case has not been concluded in that period, or the order otherwise revoked, arrangements will be made, towards the end of that period, for the PCC to consider whether a further period of interim suspension should be imposed.

There is a right of appeal in accordance with section 24 (6) of the Osteopaths Act 1993. Mr Robson also has a right to apply to the PCC to have the ISO revoked on the basis that there has been a change in the circumstances of the case which has made the ISO unnecessary. No such application can be entertained by the PCC unless 6 months have passed since the imposition of the ISO by the PCC.