

Tracking the Osteopathic Profession 2009-2023:

Key registration trends

- The Centre for Enterprise and Economic Development Research (CEEDR)¹ at Middlesex University is delighted to submit this research report to the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).²

Aims & Objectives

1. This report aims to better understand registration numbers and key trends based on the analysis of existing GOsC data sources,³ so as to determine what the osteopathic sector looks like currently (2008-09 to 2023).

Registration numbers and trends

2. This report examines the following data sources:
 - a) Student enrolment and progression data (from 2017- 2022-2023)**
 - The enrolment and progression data includes progression of final year students that successfully achieved award and progression and non-progression rates for each year of study (Year 1 to Year 6)
 - b) Number of osteopaths joining the Register (2009- to May 2023)**
 - The joiners data includes gender, age range, years spent on the Register (>1 to 16+ years), and year of qualification
 - c) Number of osteopaths leaving the Register (2009 – to May 2023)**
 - The leavers data includes years on the Register prior to deregistration, reasons for leaving (resignation, deceased or administration reasons which would include CPD non-compliance, fee, or Fitness to Practice cases), reasons cited for deregistration and year of osteopathic qualification.

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² Dr Stacey Clift, Senior Policy and Research Officer at the GOsC oversaw this research project.

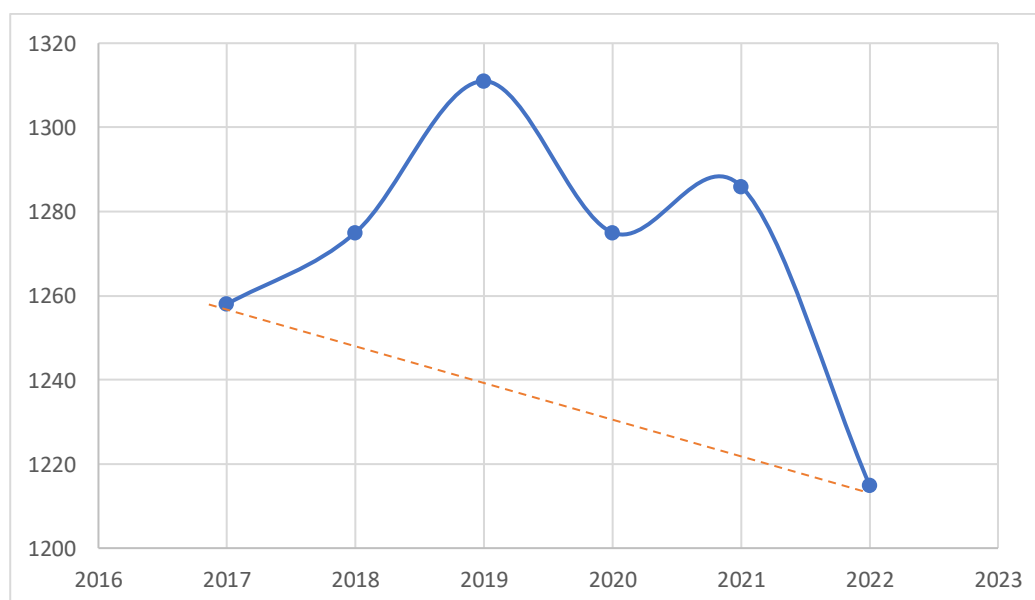
³ This involves drawing on the following key data sources: (1) Student enrolment and progression data (from 2017-18 to 2022-23) (2) Number of osteopaths joining the Register (from 2008-09 to 03.05.23), (3) Number of osteopaths leaving the Register (from 2008-09 to 03.05.23) (4) Full population data of GOsC Register.

Findings and results

a) Student Data (enrolment and progression) from 2017-18 to 2022-23 (2017-2023)

3. We start the analysis of the osteopathic profession by examining the student data records updated for the academic year 2022-23. Table 1 summarises key trends for student enrolment and progression data in each academic year over the period 2017-2023.⁴
4. Overall, Table 1 shows us a negative trend in the total number of students enrolled in an osteopathy course from 2017-18 to 2022-23 (see dotted line on Figure 1). Specifically, we can observe a positive trend between the academic years 2017-18 and 2019-20, then, this pattern exhibits a negative trend from 2020-21 to 2022-23 (see blue line on Figure 1). This pattern differs from the initial report entitled "Tracking the Osteopathic Profession 2009-2021: Key registration trends and predictive modelling", and it is explained by the updated enrolment intake in 2021-22 (corrected from 1309 to 1286) and the decrease in enrolment rate in 2022-23. Figure 1 exhibits this pattern:

Figure 1: Student intake/enrolment 2017-18 to 2022-23



5. In particular, the enrolment intake remained almost similar between the academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19, then grew by 36 students during 2019-20, and dropped by the same number of students (36) in 2020-21. Then, the enrolment intake grew slightly in 2021-22 by 11 students and, finally, dropped dramatically by 71 students in 2022-23. This latter figure represents a 3.4%

⁴ This period includes the academic years: 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23.

drop from 2017-18 and a 5.5% drop from 2021-22. Taken all together, this represents an average of 1270 students enrolled on an osteopathy course each academic year.⁵

6. Similarly, the progression rate has remained stable between the academic years 2017-18 and 2021-22, showing an increase of 7% from 2017-18 to 2019-20 (from 82% to 89%). During 2020-21 the progression rate dropped slightly by 4% compared with the previous academic year and remained similar in 2021-22. Similarly, the non-progression rate has also exhibited a relatively stable trend, diminishing by 4% from 2017-18 to 2019-20 and growing by 4% in 2020-21, remaining similar in 2021-22.

Table 1: Summary of student enrolment and progression data

		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Enrolment	1258	1275 (+17)	1311 (+36)	1275(-36)	1286(+11)	1215(-71)
2	Total Progression (to next year/stage)	1037	1100 (+63)	1163 (+63)	1084 (-79)	1087(+3)	n/a
3	Total Progression rate (to next year/stage) (%)	82%	86%	89%	85%	85%	n/a
4	Year 1-Progression	257	285 (+28)	280 (+5)	298 (+18)	273(-25)	n/a
5	Year 1-Progression rate (%)	74%	77%	84%	80%	75%	n/a
6	Graduated with award	234	266 (+32)	298 (+32)	232 (-66)	238(+6)	n/a
7	Graduated rate	96%	95%	95%	92%	96%	n/a
8	Non-progression	185	176 (-9)	146 (-30)	195 (+49)	199(+4)	n/a
9	Non-progression rate	15%	14%	11%	15%	15%	n/a

7. If we examine specifically the figures for the latest complete academic year of data, 2021-22, we observe that the total number of students enrolled on an osteopathy course was 1286. This number includes the students in the full-time (FT) and part-time (PT) modalities and includes all year groups Year 1-Year 6. Of these students, 1087 progressed to the next year/stage, representing a total progression rate of 85%. Now, if we focus on those students who successfully graduated during 2021-22, 238 or 95.5% of final year students went on to graduate (Year 4 FT or Year 5/6 PT students), a 3.5% increase on last year. In terms of those students who did not progress to the next stage during 2021-22, a total of 199 students or 15% non- progressed, and of that 15% this was most likely to be due to referral/deferral (55 or 28%), followed by withdrawal (48 or 24%) or suspended studies (46 or 23%). Overall, non-progression percentage rate is consistent with last year's figures, but deferral/referral was 6% higher.
8. In summary, the following main trends were identified in relation to the student data. Firstly, we can observe a positive trend in student intake/ enrolment between the academic years 2017-18 and 2019-20, and a negative trend from 2020-21 to 2022-23. Secondly, the progression rate has remained stable, above 80%, ranging from 82% in 2017-18 to 85% in 2021-22. Thirdly, the number of students has shown an unstable pattern exhibiting an increase and decrease in certain years and ranging from 1258 in 2017-18 to 1215 in 2022-23. In general, the student intake shows a negative trend, which is driven by a 3.4% drop from 2017-18 and a 5.5% drop from 2021-22. This latter point may be a direct result

⁵ Across all year groups Year 1- Year 6

of the mergers of some academic institutions as well as the COVID pandemic and the implications of BREXIT. Finally, the number of graduates varies from 234 in 2017-18 to 238 in 2021-22. More precisely, the graduation rate (N° graduated with award/ N° enrolment) has remained stable and equal to 18%.

b) GOsC Joiners Data

9. Table 2 shows the number of registrants who joined the GOsC register from the academic year 2008-09 to 2022-23 (as of 03.05.23), grouped by year, gender, age and years of qualification. From column (3), we can observe that the number of joiners onto the GOsC register range from 148 to 268 across any full academic year.⁶
10. Table 2 allows us to infer two critical trends from the data. Firstly, column (3) exhibits a steady increase in registrants joining the register each academic year; however, column (4) shows a high variation in the number of osteopaths joining the GOsC register. This high variation might be explained by the opening and closing of some Osteopathic Education Institutions (OEs). For instance, the last graduates from Oxford Brookes University and Leeds Beckett University were in 2016, and 2017 respectively. Along the same lines, the first graduates from Swansea University and Marjon took place in 2014 and 2021 respectively (see Appendix A). Secondly, column 5 of Table 2 shows a higher rate of females joining the GOsC register than males and these trends are observed more clearly in Figures 2 and 3. Thirdly, column 6 exhibits a diminish in the age of osteopaths joining the GOsC register throughout all the academic years, ranging from a mean age of 44 years in 2008-09 to 35 years in 2022-23 present. This pattern is clearly observed in Figure 4. Finally, column (7) shows the years of qualification of osteopaths joining the GOsC and, similar to column (6), it shows a decrease in the years of qualification with the passing of time.
11. In relation to the year of qualification of joiners (Column 7), the existing data reveals a big gap between the year in which some osteopaths joined the register and the year they qualified. This fact can be explained for the following reasons: First, the register opened only in 1998, so no one could have been on the register before that date. Second, there was a window between 2009 and 2011 whereby osteopaths who were UK qualified prior to 2000 could join the register after passing an assessment. Third, there is a route to registration for internationally qualified applicants who may have achieved their qualification outside the UK to join the register once they have met the relevant criteria. Often, international registrants have worked outside the UK for some time, so there is a gap between their qualifications and registration dates.

⁶ We consider 148 instead of 101 as the lowest number of registrants joining the register due to 101 represents an incomplete year and 148 a full academic year.

Table 2: Joiners onto the GOsC over a 14 year-period.⁷

Year (1)	Period (2)	N° registrants joining (3)	Variation in number of registrants joining (4)	Gender (5)				Age (6)			Years Qualification (7)		
				M	F	M (%)	F (%)	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max
2008-09	1 Sept 2008 - 31 Aug 2009	148		70	78	47%	53%	44	35	66	14	13	35
2009-10	1 Sept 2009 - 31 Aug 2010	198	50	81	117	41%	59%	45	34	73	13	12	37
2010-11	1 Sept 2010 - 31 Aug 2011	175	-23	70	105	40%	60%	43	33	63	12	11	39
2011-12	1 Sept 2011 - 31 Aug 2012	174	-1	84	90	48%	52%	41	31	71	11	10	36
2012-13	1 Sept 2012 - 31 Aug 2013	158	-16	76	82	48%	52%	41	31	70	10	9	36
2013-14	1 Sept 2013 - 31 Aug 2014	211	53	96	115	45%	55%	39	29	68	9	8	35
2014-15	1 Sept 2014 - 31 Aug 2015	251	40	110	141	44%	56%	39	29	63	9	7	36
2015-16	1 Sept 2015 - 31 Aug 2016	227	-24	104	123	46%	54%	37	28	62	7	6	31
2016-17	1 Sept 2016 - 31 Aug 2017	189	-38	104	85	55%	45%	36	27	66	6	5	22
2017-18	1 Sept 2017 - 31 Aug 2018	231	42	115	116	50%	50%	36	26	64	5	4	31
2018-19	1 Sept 2018 - 31 Aug 2019	246	15	99	147	40%	60%	36	25	67	4	3	33
2019-20	1 Sept 2019 - 31 Aug 2020	206	-40	86	120	42%	58%	34	24	67	3	2	24
2020-21	1 Sept 2020 - 31 Aug 2021	273	67	127	146	47%	53%	34	23	65	3	1	32
2021-22	1 Sept 2021-31 Aug 2022	268	-5	122	146	46%	54%	33	21	66	3	1	37
2022-date	1 Sept 2022-date	101	-167	46	55	46%	54%	35	23	70	3	0	47
		3056		1390	1666	46%	54%						

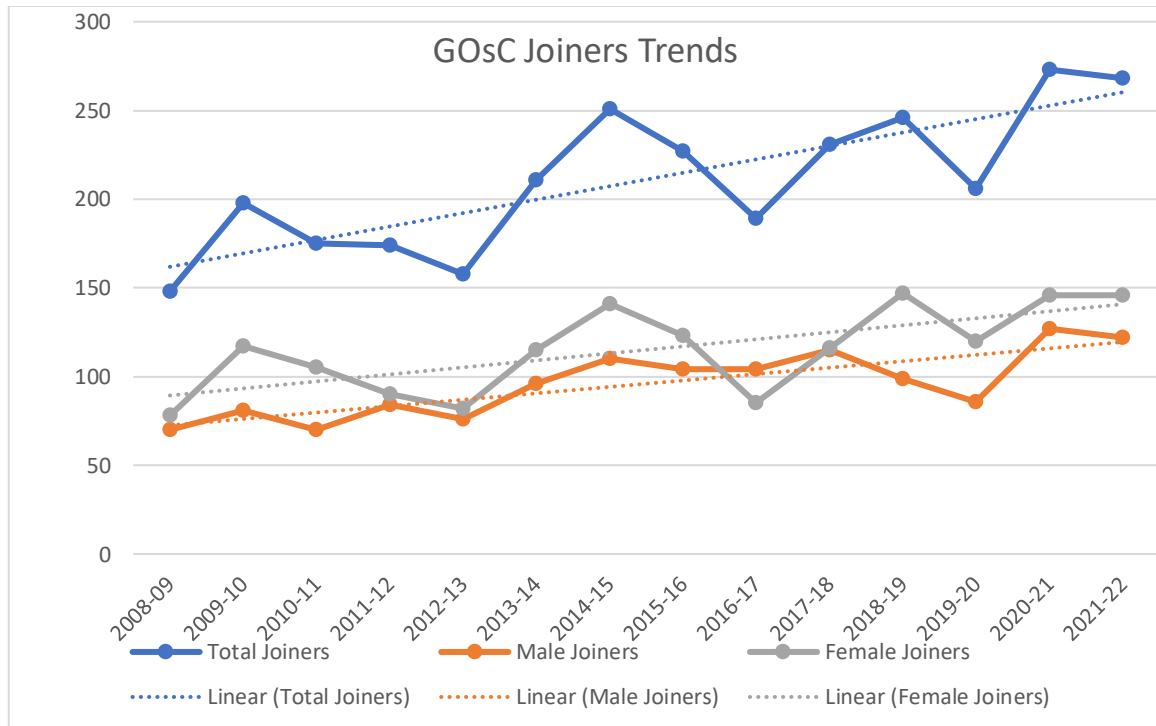
12. Figure 2 shows the dynamics over time of the total number of joiners (blue line), the number of male joiners (red line) and the number of female joiners (grey line). It also displays the trend line for each series of joiners (dotted lines). Despite the remarkable⁸ variation in the number of osteopaths joining the GOsC register over time, we can observe a steady and positive trend in the number of joiners. This pattern is also observed in the number of male and female joiners. If we use 2008-09 as a benchmark figure, there seems to be a rise followed by a fall in the numbers joining the register each academic year. As previously pointed out, this variation might be explained by the opening and closing of some Osteopathic Education Institutions (OEIs).

13. However, if we consider the average number of joiners throughout time, we can see how the number of registrants has increased over time. For instance, the average number of joiners during 2008-2012 is 171; the average number of joiners during 2013-2017 was 222, and the average number of joiners during 2018-2021 was 248 (excluding the period 1 Sept 2022-date). As previously pointed out, this variation might be explained by the opening and closing of some Osteopathic Education Institutions (OEIs). Furthermore, the decline in the number of joiners in the period 2019-20 might be explained by the COVID-19 outbreak.

⁷ To date refers to data extraction undertaken on 03.05.23

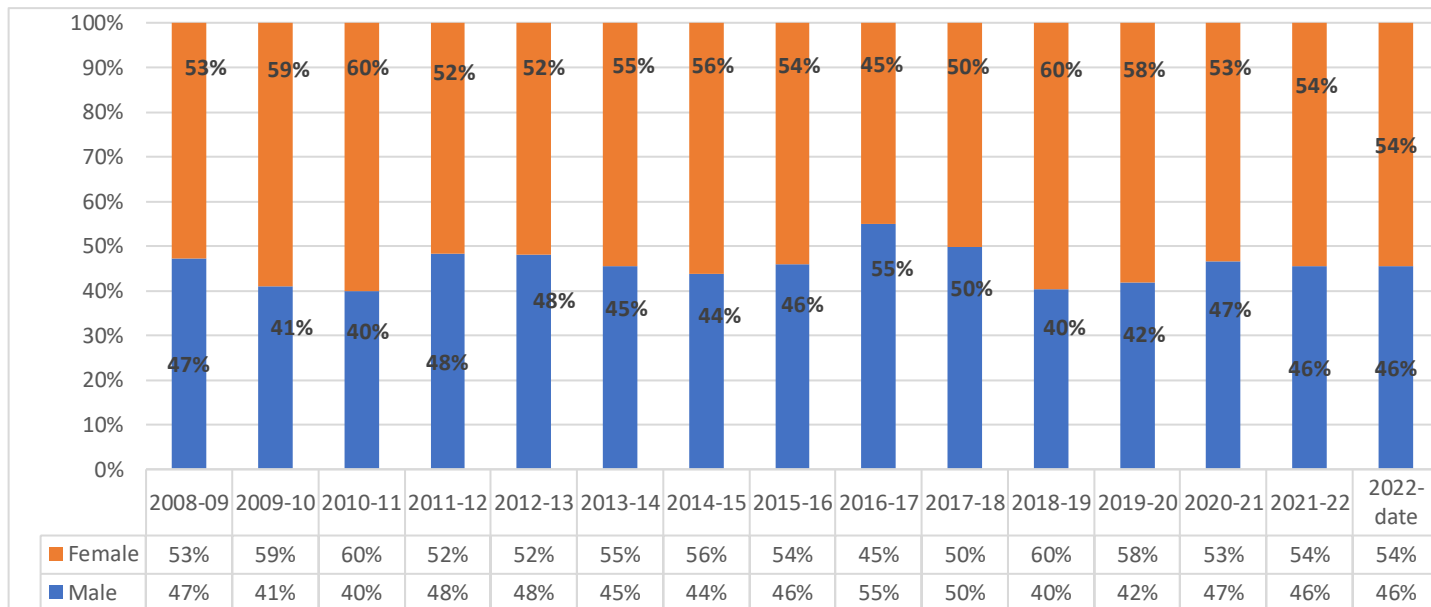
⁸ Striking/ unusual

Figure 2: GOsC joiners' trends



14. Figure 3 displays the evolution of joiners by gender and academic year. It is significantly noticeable that female joiners outnumber male joiners. More females (average 54%) than males (average 46%) have joined the register over the period 2008-2021. We can observe only two periods where there was an exception to this trend, during 2016-17 where fewer females enrolled and during 2017-2018 where numbers were equal between males and females. Considering that data for the last academic year is incomplete, we avoid making conclusions based on this data. The predictive modelling will address this latter point.

Figure 3: GOsC Joiner's trends by gender

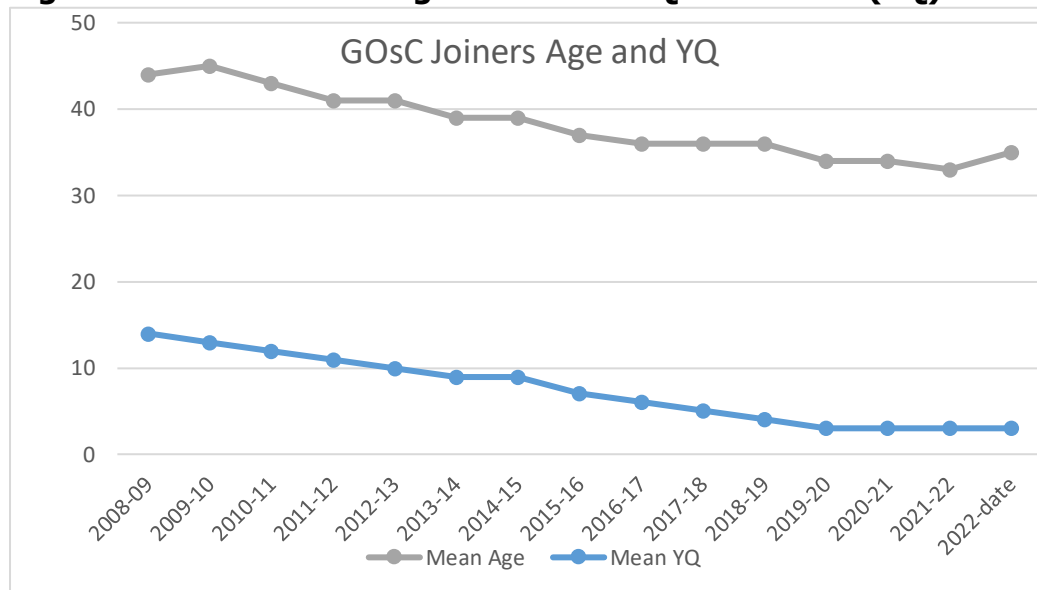


15. Figure 4 exhibits joiners mean age and year of qualification. It is significantly noticeable that the decrease in the age of osteopaths joining the register. Specifically, the average joiners' age decreased from 44 years old in 2008-09 to 35 years old in 2022- to date category⁹.

16. Similarly, Figure 4 also shows the evolution of the years of qualification of osteopaths joining the GOsC in each academic year. On average, this figure shows a decrease between the time of qualification and registration on the GOsC register, suggesting that once the register opened, the qualified osteopaths started joining the GOsC faster each academic year.

⁹ This up to and including 03.05.23.

Figure 4: GOsC Joiner’s Age and Year of Qualification (YQ) trends



c) GOsC Leavers Data

17. Table 3 shows the number of registrants leaving the register from the academic year 2008-09 to 2022-to date¹⁰, grouped by year, gender, and age. Column (3) shows that the number of registrants leaving the register ranges from 91 to 290 across any full academic year.¹¹

18. Table 3 allows us to infer three critical trends from the data. Firstly, column (3) exhibits a steady increase in registrants leaving the register each academic year. The highest number of osteopaths leaving the register was reached in the academic years 2020-21 and 2021-22, which might be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic. Secondly, we can observe that the number of leavers by gender remains stable and almost equal (50% female and 50% males), except for the year 2020-21, when females outnumber males significantly. These trends are observed clearly in Figures 6 and 7, respectively. Finally, we observe a stable pattern in the age of osteopaths leaving the register, i.e., the average (52 years) and the minimum (30 years) and maximum age (86 years) remain stable across each academic year.

¹⁰ Up to and including 03.05.23.

¹¹ We omitted the period 2022-date as this represent an incomplete year.

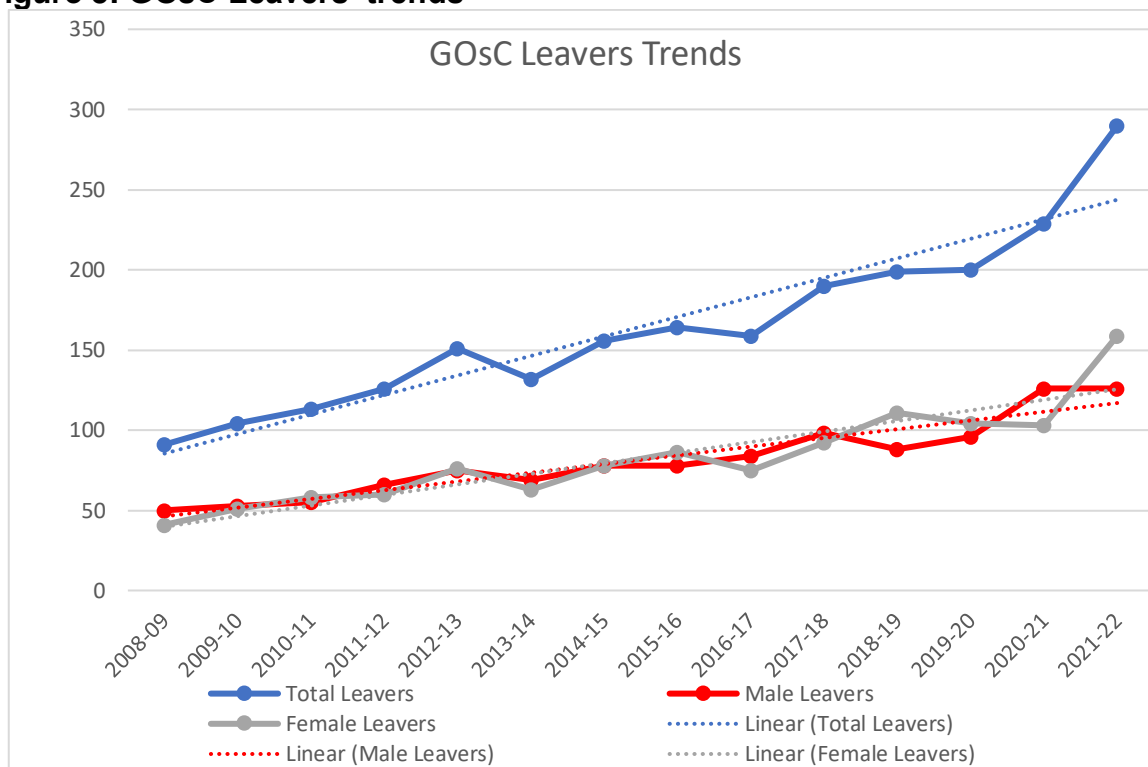
Table 3: Leavers the GOsC over a 15 period.

Year (1)	Period (2)	N° registrants leaving (3)	Variation in number of registrants leaving (4)	Gender (5)				Age (6)		
				M	F	M (%)	F (%)	Mean	Min	Max
2008-09	1 Sept 2008 - 31 Aug 2009	91		50	41	55%	45%	58	38	91
2009-10	1 Sept 2009 - 31 Aug 2010	104	13	53	51	51%	49%	54	37	86
2010-11	1 Sept 2010 - 31 Aug 2011	113	9	55	58	49%	51%	56	35	91
2011-12	1 Sept 2011 - 31 Aug 2012	126	13	66	60	52%	48%	56	34	89
2012-13	1 Sept 2012 - 31 Aug 2013	151	25	75	76	50%	50%	52	33	90
2013-14	1 Sept 2013 - 31 Aug 2014	132	-19	69	63	52%	48%	50	32	83
2014-15	1 Sept 2014 - 31 Aug 2015	156	24	78	78	50%	50%	52	31	90
2015-16	1 Sept 2015 - 31 Aug 2016	164	8	78	86	48%	52%	52	29	85
2016-17	1 Sept 2016 - 31 Aug 2017	159	-5	84	75	53%	47%	51	29	84
2017-18	1 Sept 2017 - 31 Aug 2018	190	31	98	92	52%	48%	51	28	85
2018-19	1 Sept 2018 - 31 Aug 2019	199	9	88	111	44%	56%	52	27	88
2019-20	1 Sept 2019 - 31 Aug 2020	200	1	96	104	48%	52%	53	25	83
2020-21	1 Sept 2020 - 31 Aug 2021	229	29	126	103	55%	45%	50	24	78
2021-22	1 Sept 2021-31 Aug 2022	290	61	126	159	43%	55%	52	25	86
2022-date	2022-date	126	-164	64	61	51%	48%	48	24	80
		2430	199	1206	1218	50%	50%	52	30	86

19. Figure 5 shows the dynamics over time of the total number of leavers (blue line), the number of male (red line) and the number of female leavers (grey line). Additionally, it displays the trend line for each series of leavers (dotted lines). It is noticeable, that there is a steady increase in registrants leaving the register each academic year, from 91 in 2008-09 to 290 in 2021-22. For instance, the average number of leavers during the period 2008-12 was 117; the average number of leavers during the period 2013-17 was 160, and the average number of leavers during the period 2018-21 was 230 (excluding the period 1 Sept 2022- to date¹²). Finally, no significant differences between male and female registrants leaving the register throughout the time recorded (2009-2023) were observed in our analysis.

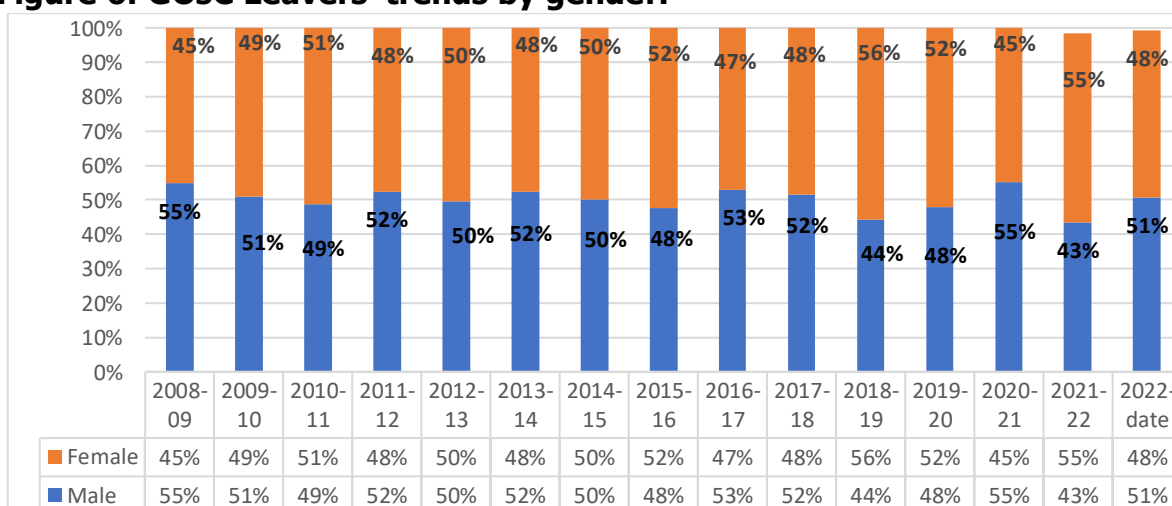
¹² Up to and including 03.05.23

Figure 5: GOsC Leavers' trends



20. Figure 6 shows the evolution of leavers' numbers by gender and academic year. As previously reported, the number of leavers by gender remained stable and almost equal (50% female and 50% males), except for the period 2018-19, in which the proportion of females leaving the register reached the highest point, 56%, compared to 44% of males.

Figure 6: GOsC Leavers' trends by gender.



21. Table 4 exhibits (a) the number of years registrants spend on the GOsC register before deregistration (column 1), (b) the number of registrants leaving the GOsC register (column 2), (c) the variation in the number of osteopaths leaving

the register (column 3), and (d) some key demographics: gender and age (column 4 and 5).

22. There are several significant pinch points when examining deregistration and length of time on the GOsC register, most noticeably those spending 10-15 years (458 leavers), followed by those on the register for 15-20 years (390 leavers) and 6-10 years (343 leavers). Similarly, the highest increase in the number of leavers takes place for those spending more than six years and less than 15 years on the register and for those spending more than one year and less than two years. In addition, those osteopaths spending more than 10 years and less than 15 years on the register account for 458 registrants, of whom 238 are males and 203 are females and are predominantly between 50-59 years of age.
23. A further significant pinch point is identified for those osteopaths spending more than six years and less than ten years on the register, of whom 136 were males and 196 females, and mainly were between 40-49 years old (114 registrants). These numbers and trends would suggest that those registrants leave the GOsC probably because they are getting close to their retirement age rather than dissatisfaction or lack of commitment to the osteopathic profession.
24. Finally, numbers drop in those leaving the register after spending more than one year and less than two years (194 participants), of whom 83 were male, and 108 were female and were predominantly aged between 30-39 years. Additionally, this would suggest the GOsC register might lose 3% of its registrants in the next 1-2 years ahead, which might indicate business start-up failures, e.g., osteopaths not being able to generate a large enough client list to survive.

Table 4: Years on the register before deregistration and key demographics over a 15 period.

Years on the Register (1)	N° registrants leaving (2)	Variation in number of registrants leaving (3)	Gender (4)		Age range (5)						
			M	F	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
<1	61		30	31	14	25	17	5	0	0	0
[1-2[	194	133	83	108	20	79	64	22	9	0	0
[2-3[	175	-19	83	91	12	65	60	29	7	2	0
[3-4[	170	-5	72	96	6	66	65	24	7	1	1
[4-5[	145	-25	62	79	3	46	52	32	11	1	0
[5-6[	122	-23	58	60	1	33	44	31	9	3	1
[6-10[	343	221	136	196	0	73	114	97	42	11	6
[10-15[	458	115	238	203	0	17	87	118	100	95	36
[15-20[	390	-68	208	176	0	0	39	80	121	114	34
20+	352	-38	210	142	0	0	14	62	157	103	15

Reasons for deregistration with GOsC

25. In this section, we explore the reasons behind osteopaths' deregistration with the GOsC from 2008-09 to 2022-to May 2023. Based on the data provided by the GOsC, we have grouped the causes for leaving into three key groups or reasons, namely:

1. Resignation
2. Administrative reasons (These include osteopaths leaving the register due to CPD non-compliance, non-payment of fees, or Fitness to Practise cases)
3. Deceased.

26. Those deregistered osteopaths who resigned from the register were classified into seven reasons:

1. Retirement
2. Illness
3. Maternity
4. Moving overseas
5. Taking a sabbatical
6. No reasons provided
7. Others

26. Table 5 shows the number of years registrants spend on the GOsC register before deregistration (column 1) and the number of registrants leaving the GOsC register (column 2) according to the reasons the leavers gave on leaving (column 3). As shown in Table 5, the main reasons for leaving the GOsC register are resignation (83%), followed by administrative reasons (15%) and deceased (2%). Resignation is more recurrently mentioned as a reason for leaving among those that have been on the register for more than six years. This point will be examined more closely in Table 6. Administrative reasons were mentioned slightly more amongst those that had been on the register for more than six and less than fifteen years (99 participants). Deceased was the cause for registrants who spent more than ten years on the record, i.e., older registrants.

Table 5: Years on the register prior to deregistration and reasons for leaving over a 15-year period

Years on the Register (1)	N° registrants leaving (2)	Reasons for leaving (3)		
		Resignation	Administrative Reasons	Deceased
<1	61	51	7	3
[1-2[	194	156	31	7
[2-3[	175	147	23	5
[3-4[	170	145	22	3
[4-5[	145	121	19	5
[5-6[	122	97	20	5
[6-10[	343	289	45	9
[10-15[	458	395	54	9
[15-20[	390	323	59	8
20+	352	279	70	3
Total	2410	2003	350	57
%		83%	15%	2%

27. Turning to the main reasons for resignation, Table 6 displays the number of registrants leaving the register, the reasons given for resignation and the years spent on the register by the registrant prior to deregistering. We can observe that most leaver's resignations do not provide a specific reason, regardless of the years on the register (64% on average). Retirement starts to be cited slightly more as a reason for leaving among those who have been on the register longer, particularly for more than six years. Similarly, ill health starts to be cited more as a reason for leaving among those that have been on the register for more than ten years.

28. Moving overseas cases featured more significantly among those that left the register after spending more than six years on the register (a total of 86 registrants) and, even more precisely, in those with more than twenty years on the GOsC register (30 registrants). This latter point might be explained due to older osteopaths deciding to resign from the register and then returning to their home nation. Considering that the referendum for leaving the EU was in 2016, this might explain this finding.

Table 6: Reasons for resignations and length of time on the register

Resignations	<1	[1-2[	[2-3[	[3-4[	[4-5[	[5-6[	[6-10[	[10-15[	[15-20[	20+
No reason provided	28(57%)	82(56%)	87(60%)	85(63%)	65(56%)	62(66%)	198(70%)	254(67%)	195(64%)	235(85%)
Retired	15(31%)	43(29%)	47(33%)	34(25%)	37(32%)	23(24%)	58(21%)	91(24%)	79(26%)	4(1%)
Ill health	1(2%)	0(0%)	3(2%)	2(1%)	3(03%)	2(2%)	3(1%)	4(1%)	2(1%)	4(1%)
Maternity	0(0%)	1(1%)	1(1%)	1(1%)	1(1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(1%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Moving overseas	3(6%)	17(12%)	4(3%)	10(7%)	6(5%)	3(3%)	16(6%)	20(5%)	20(7%)	30(11%)
Taking a sabbatical	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Others	2(4%)	4(3%)	2(1%)	4(3%)	5(4%)	4(4%)	6(2%)	10(3%)	9(3%)	4(1%)
Total	58	134	132	111	99	89	209	337	312	197

26. Along the same lines, Table 7 shows the number of registrants leaving the register, administrative reasons¹³ given for leaving and the years spent on the register by the registrant. CPD non-compliance starts to be cited slightly more as a reason for leaving among those who have been on the register longer, particularly for more than six years (108 registrants).

27. Fees payments were mentioned slightly more amongst those that had been on the register for more than six years on the register (86 registrants) and those spending one year and less than two years (17 registrants). This latter point might be explained by difficulties in setting up a first-time practice and building a patient client list, finding an associate job or an osteopath's earnings not reflecting expectations of a starting salary.

28. Similarly, Fitness to Practise (FTP) cases featured predominately among those that had been on the register for more than fifteen years and less than twenty years (11 registrants).

29. Finally, from Table 7, we can argue that the lowest number of osteopaths leaving the GOSc register is observed among those that have been on the register for more than four years and less than six years, as well as those osteopaths who have been on the register for less than one year.

¹³ Administrative reasons include CPD non-compliance, non-payment of fees, or Fitness to Practise cases.

Table 7: Administrative reasons and length of time on the register

Years on the Register	N° registrants leaving	Administrative Reasons		
		CPD (non-comp)	Fee	FtP /Council
<1	7	3	3	1
[1-2[	31	11	17	3
[2-3[	23	9	8	5
[3-4[	22	10	10	2
[4-5[	19	7	7	5
[5-6[	20	10	8	2
[6-10[	45	28	17	0
[10-15[	54	20	29	5
[15-20[	59	32	19	8
20+	70	28	41	1
Total	350	158	159	32
%		45%	45%	9%

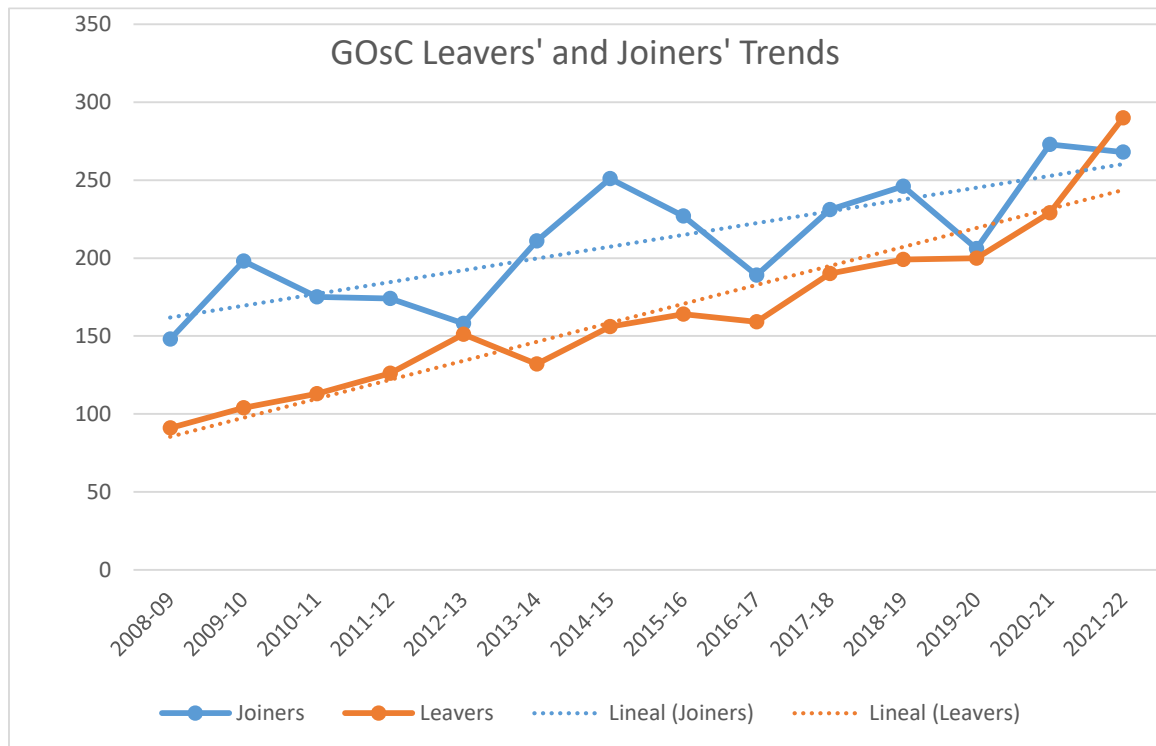
Summary

Examining joiners and leavers' trends

26. Figure 7 shows the dynamics over time of osteopaths joining (blue line) and leaving (red line) the GOsC register. It also shows the trend lines for each of these series (dotted lines).

27. Firstly, it is noticeable that the number of joiners outnumbers the number of leavers throughout time except in the last period in which the number of leavers outnumbers the number of joiners. We can observe two academic years in which the numbers of joiners and leavers are close, 2012-13 and 2019-20, but these are not equal. Secondly, we can observe a more significant variation in the number of joiners compared to the number of leavers, which exhibits a more stable pattern over time. Thirdly, Figure 7 allows us to identify a parallel trend between the number of osteopaths joining and leaving the register throughout time. In other words, the number of joiners is higher than the number of leavers in each academic year, up until the last period 2020-2021.

Figure 7: GOsC Leavers' and Joiners' trends



Conclusions

27. This report examines registration and trends of the osteopathic profession based on secondary data sources. This study has the following objective:

- To analyse registration numbers and critical trends to determine what the osteopathic sector looks like at the moment (2009-2023).

28. In order to find out what the osteopathic sector looked like currently, three data sets were examined to identify the key figures and trends. These data sources were: a) Student enrolment and progression data, b) Joiners onto the GOsC register data and, c) Leavers from the GOsC register data (including reasons for deregistration).

29. The main findings from the analysis of student data are summarised below:

- A positive trend between the academic years 2017-18 and 2019-20, then, this pattern exhibits a negative trend from 2020-21 to 2022-23.¹⁴
- An average of 1270 (15 students less than the initial report) students enrolled on an osteopathy course each academic year across all year groups Year 1-6.
- The progression rate has remained relatively stable between the academic years 2017-18 and 2021-22, showing an increase of 7% from 2017-18 to 2019-20 (from 82% to 89%). However, during 2020-21 the progression rate dropped slightly by 4% compared with the previous academic year and remained similar in 2021-22.
- The graduation rate has remained stable and equal to 18%. Specifically, the number of graduates varies from 234 in 2017-18 to 238 in 2021-22.
- Of the 199 (15%) non-progressed students in 2021-22, this was most likely to be due to, withdrawal (48 or 24%), suspended studies (46 or 23%), or referral/deferral (55 or 28%).

30. There are two key trends to infer from the joiners data:

- A steady increase in registrants joining the register each academic year, although, this pattern exhibits a high variation each academic year. This latter point might be explained by the opening and closing of some OEIs, as seen in Annex A.
- This data reveals a higher number of female than male osteopaths joining the register over a 14-year period, excepted for 2016-2017 and 2017-18.

31. Along the same lines, the following critical trends can be inferred from the leavers data:

- A steady increase in the number of registrants leaving the register each academic year, reaching the highest number in 2020-21, and ranging from 91-229 across any academic year 2009-2022.
- A stable pattern in the age of osteopaths leaving the register i.e., the average age (52) and the minimum (30) and maximum age (86) remain stable each academic year.
- The number of leavers by gender remains stable and almost equal (50% for female and male), with one exception in 2020-21.

¹⁴ This pattern differs from the previous initial report, and it is explained by the updated enrolment intake in 2021-22 (corrected from 1309 to 1286) and the dramatic reduction in enrolment rate in 2022-23.

- The number of joiners outnumbers the number of leavers throughout time, except for two years (2012-13 and 2019-20) in which these numbers are close.

Consequently, the following trends have been identified about the characteristics and reasons for leaving the register:

- The number of registrants leaving the register drops after spending two years on the register.
- The highest numbers of leavers are observed in those osteopaths who have been on the register 10 to 15 and 15 to 20 and this appears to correlate with retirement age 50-59 and 60-69.
- Resignation (83%), followed by administrative reasons (15%) and finally deceased (2%) were identified as the main reasons for leaving the register.
- Retirement, followed by health problems and moving overseas were in turn identified as the main reasons for resignation.
- Retirement is offered as a reason for leaving the register, the longer an osteopath has practiced in the profession.
- Health problems are often provided as a reason for leaving after 10 years on the register.
- Moving overseas is significant for those on the register for more than 6 years and accentuated for those on the register for more than 20 years, where the EU referendum and possible return to home nation for retirement might be significant factors.

Annex A: OEI Opening and closing

Osteopathic Education Institution	Open - Closed
University College Osteopathy (Formerly British School of Osteopathy), London	1922 -
European School Osteopathy, Kent	1951 (France) 1965 - (in England)
London School of Osteopathy, London	1952-
College of Osteopaths, London & Stoke	1961 -
British College of Osteopathic Medicine, London (Merged with ESO in 2021)	1963 -
London College of Osteopathic Medicine (for qualified medical doctors only)	?????
NESCOT, Surrey	?????
Swansea University	First graduates 2014
Marjon, Plymouth	New graduates from 2021
Oxford Brookes University	Last graduates 2016
Leeds Met University	Last graduates 2017