

## Registration renewal reminder

| Profession            | Renewal cut-off / lapsing date |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Biomedical scientists | 16 December 2009               |
| Radiographers         | 28 February 2010               |

### Important information for biomedical scientists

Due to the postal disruption the closing date for receipt of renewal forms has been extended from the 30 November 2009 until the 16 December 2009. To check the status of your registration please visit [www.hpcheck.org](http://www.hpcheck.org)

### Important information for professionals renewing their registration

All registered biomedical scientists were invited to renew their registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) recently and we will be inviting radiographers to renew shortly. The lapsing date for biomedical scientists is **16 December 2009** and for radiographers it is **28 February 2010**. The renewal form must be signed and returned to the HPC with a payment (unless a direct debit instruction is in place) by these dates.

There are several ways in which you can make sure your name stays on the HPC Register.

- Call the HPC Registration Department now if you have changed your home address.
- Send your renewal form (and payment) to us well before the deadline.
- Sign up to our e-newsletter which includes renewal reminders by emailing: [newsletter@hpc-uk.org](mailto:newsletter@hpc-uk.org)
- Help your colleagues to stay registered by reminding them about renewing their registration.
- Approximately 10 days after you have sent your renewal form, check the online Register via our website ([www.hpcheck-uk.org](http://www.hpcheck-uk.org)) to ensure that you are showing as registered for the next two-year registration cycle.

If you would like free renewal posters to display in your department, please email [publications@hpc-uk.org](mailto:publications@hpc-uk.org)

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Welcome to issue 26 of HPC In Focus. As you can see on page two, we are delighted by the record number of occupational therapists who have successfully renewed their registration. This combined with the other professions that have already renewed this year leads us to reiterate the thanks that we send to everyone that has helped us to achieve such great results. As Radiographers enter their renewal phase in December, we hope to see this trend continue into the New Year.

In this issue you can also read about the regulation of Psychotherapists and Counsellors. Our article explains the progress that has been made in this area to date and where we aim to go from here. For those who are interested in getting more involved with the work of the HPC our information on how to 'Become a 'Partner' at the Health Professions Council' will prove of relevance.'

**Daniel Knight, Acting Editor**

This newsletter and previous issues can be downloaded from the website at [www.hpc-uk.org/publications/newsletter](http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/newsletter)

To have it sent straight to your inbox, please email [newsletter@hpc-uk.org](mailto:newsletter@hpc-uk.org)

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## Registration renewal reminder (continued)

The average processing time for renewal applications is approximately ten working days, although this time may vary depending on the volume of forms we receive. Once we have processed your renewal form and payment, our online Register is immediately updated to show your new registration dates. The Register is in real-time and is the best way for you or your employer to verify your registration status. The Register can be viewed via our main website – where employers can also check the status of up to 100 people at a time, using the ‘multiple registrant search’.

### More information

For more information about registration renewals, please visit the dedicated pages on our website at <http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/>

To check the Register please visit [www.hpcheck.org](http://www.hpcheck.org)

The registration team can be contacted Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm on our lo-call number 0845 3004 472 (if calling from within the UK) or +44 (0) 20 7840 9802.

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## Continuing professional development (CPD)

We will be selecting a random sample of radiographers to submit a CPD profile. Those selected for audit must complete a profile that demonstrates the activities they have undertaken during the past two years to meet our CPD standards. Radiographers selected for audit must return their completed CPD profile by 28 February 2010.

For more information about this process, including sample profiles, the CPD standards and an audio-visual presentation about CPD, please visit our website: [www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd](http://www.hpc-uk.org/registrants/cpd)

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## Record number of occupational therapists renew their HPC registration

From August to October 2009 (then extended by two weeks due to postal disruptions), we invited all occupational therapists to renew their registration for the next two years. This year 95% successfully renewed. This is excellent news and compared to last time, the improvement is clear; 91.7% of occupational therapists renewed two years ago.

We have been working closely with a number of stakeholders to remind registrants about the importance of renewing their registration. We distributed letters, information and posters via the College of Occupational Therapists (COT) networks and promoted renewal dates on websites and in OTnews. This collaborative working has made a real difference and has prevented many occupational therapists from lapsing off our Register unnecessarily.

We would like to say a big thank you to the COT and all human resources and service manager colleagues, trade union representatives and employers that have helped us in this work.

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## Regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors

At the beginning of November, we were invited to attend an event on the statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors which was organised by Shadow Health Minister Anne Milton MP.

The event was arranged independently by Ms Milton in response to correspondence and lobbying she had received from some members of the psychotherapy and counselling communities over recent months. Her office invited representatives of the HPC to attend and present on the White Paper, the work we have been doing on the building blocks for regulation and the issues currently under consideration. Presentations were also made by Lynn Gabriel of The British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, Darian Leader of the College of Psychoanalysts and Colin Walker of Mind, whilst Ms Milton chaired the event. There were around 50 attendees in total; a mix of psychotherapy and counselling professionals, service users and representatives of the professional bodies.

There was a consensus that statutory regulation by an independent body was the way forward for psychotherapists and counsellors. Self-regulation was not viewed as a viable option. There was also considerable criticism expressed by both Mind and members of the profession that the current system of voluntary self-regulation, including the complaints system, through the professional associations was failing to protect the public.

A small minority doubted whether abuse was an issue in the UK and there was criticism of these comments from the majority of attendees. Some attendees from the professions also appealed for further consideration of regulation by the profession itself.

We saw the meeting as a helpful opportunity to review the progress made towards bringing psychotherapists and counsellors into statutory regulation. Ms Milton concluded the meeting by stating that 'we are 80% there' and 'that there was clear support for independent statutory regulation from the majority of those present at the meeting'. This is an indication of the progress that has been made towards achieving better levels of public protection than exist under the current system.

The Government stated in the 2007 White Paper 'Trust Assurance and Safety – The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' that it intends to introduce statutory regulation for psychotherapists and counsellors. We were initially tasked with looking at how psychotherapists and counsellors might be regulated.

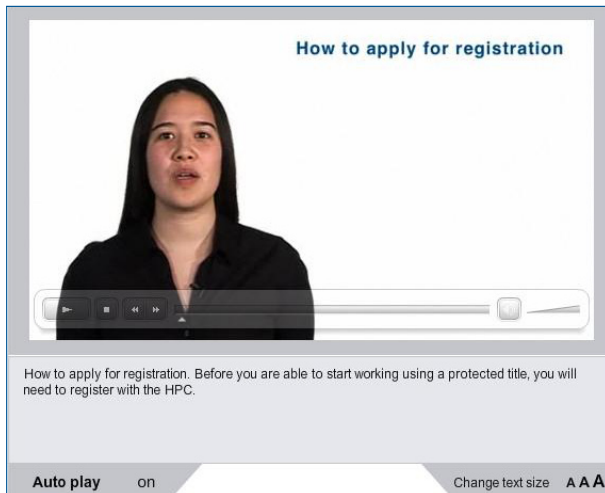
To do this, we set up a working group of stakeholders, known as a Professional Liaison Group or 'PLG' to consider and make proposals to our Council about how psychotherapists and counsellors might be regulated. We also held a public consultation on the PLG proposals which ran from 14 July - 16 October 2009.

The consultation received more than 1,000 responses, the majority from individual practitioners in the field as well as from service users, charities and professional bodies. Our Council will meet on 10 December 2009 to consider the analysis from the consultation. The Council may ask the PLG to undertake further work.

The final decision about whether statutory regulation goes forward is one for Government. Subject to this decision, we would consult again, following the publication of a Section 60 Order under the Health Act 1999, on the proposed standards of proficiency and educational thresholds. The Department of Health would also consult on the draft Section 60 Order.

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## New resources for students



On 12 October 2009 we launched a variety of new resources aimed at students, trainees and lecturers on approved programmes. We have been promoting the work by writing to all 237 HPC approved programme heads, press releases and via our website.

We have created a dedicated area on our website which provides information for students including information on applying for registration, application forms and guidance notes. An audio-visual presentation is now available to view with information on the role of the HPC, information on regulation, how to apply for registration and how to stay registered. Powerpoint slides and handouts have been produced to complement the audio-visual presentation. They aim to allow lecturers to deliver the above information in their own style. The transcript for the presentation could also serve as a tool for delivering the slides.

Our new voluntary guidance on conduct and ethics for students based on the Standards of conduct, performance and ethics is due to be published in early January and will be located in the student information section of the website.

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## Researching expectations and experiences of complainants

We are currently undertaking a piece of research to explore the expectations and experiences of those who make a complaint about a registrant to us. We have commissioned IPSOS MORI to undertake this research which was started in September 2009.

The aim of the research is to inform the future development of HPC's complaints information and to help us in the management of complainant expectations. The research focus is on complainant expectations at the point when a complaint is made about a registrant to the HPC. We hope the research findings will help us to analyse what it is complainants expect both in terms of service and outcome when they make a complaint to a regulatory body.

The research is focused on:

- The role of the regulator
- Initial expectations
- Case handling
- Outcome

We anticipate that the research will enable us to develop further literature that is both appropriate and relevant for complainants.

The research has been both qualitative and quantitative in nature and includes focus group discussions with various stakeholders as well as telephone interviews with individuals who have made a complaint to the Fitness to Practise department within the last two years.

A detailed report outlining the findings will be published in the New Year.

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## HPC exhibits at party conference in Northern Ireland

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We exhibited once again at the Democratic Unionist Party conference which was held in Belfast in November 2009. As a UK-wide regulator it is important that we engage with parliamentarians and stakeholders across all four countries. As part of this commitment we also exhibited at the Scottish National Party conference in Inverness and the Welsh Labour conference in Swansea earlier in the year.

This was a fantastic opportunity to raise our profile and awareness of the HPC with stakeholders including the First Minister of Northern Ireland, Peter Robinson MP MLA, who visited our exhibition stand (pictured with Public Affairs and Stakeholder Manager, Nina Blunck) and was interested to hear more about the role of the HPC in protecting the public. Mr Robinson remarked that it was something that his wife, Iris Robinson MP MLA, was involved in as part of her role as a member of the Health Committee. The new Health Committee Chair, Jim Wells MLA, also visited the HPC's stand as did other interested MLAs, their advisors and party members. Other exhibitors included professional bodies such as the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, health and social care charities such as Disability Action, Diabetes UK, Age Concern and Help the Aged, and regulators such as the General Medical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland.

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## Come and meet the HPC

Exhibitions are an excellent way for us to get out and meet you. We will be exhibiting at the following events, where representatives from the HPC will be on hand to answer queries, and provide HPC literature for those who would like more information to take away. Why not come along and meet us?

### Division of Clinical Psychologists Annual Conference

9-11 December 2009  
Congress Centre, London  
[www.dcpconference.co.uk](http://www.dcpconference.co.uk)

### Division of Occupational Psychologists Annual Conference

13-15 January 2010  
Holiday Inn, Brighton  
[www.bps.org.uk/dop2010](http://www.bps.org.uk/dop2010)

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## HPC visit to the Isle of Man



There is only one main hospital on the Isle of Man and it was here that we held an Information Event on 1 October. Marc Seale, Chief Executive and Registrar, gave a presentation on the HPC which was followed by an in-depth look at the CPD standards and audit process by Mark Potter, CPD Communications Manager. After the presentations there was a detailed question and answer session and copies of relevant HPC literature were also available for registrants to take away.

We were made to feel very welcome by the registrants at this event and we received some excellent feedback. A number of registrants commented that they were pleased we had made the 'effort' to come to them and they appreciated the opportunity to meet our representatives. One registrant wrote on their feedback form 'A good presentation, I feel well informed. You clarified the work of the HPC' and another remarked 'Nice to be remembered here on the Isle of Man, it's not so daunting if I get chosen for audit now'.

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## HPC Listening Events 2009 – 2010

We are now part way through our series of Listening Events and so far we have visited Darlington, Scarborough, Milton Keynes and Eastbourne. All of these events proved very popular and were fully booked within just a few weeks of the invitations being sent out. Registrants attending Listening Events are given the chance to speak directly with us. They provide valuable networking opportunities and are a great way to share ideas and best practice on topics such as CPD, communications and fitness to practice.

In the New Year the HPC will be visiting the south-west of England where Listening Events will be held in Exeter on Tuesday 2 February and Truro on Wednesday 3 February 2010. Further events are scheduled in March for Shrewsbury and Swansea. To find out more information about the Listening Events please visit [www.hpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/events](http://www.hpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/events).

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## Health Professions Council's Education and Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee is a statutory committee of the Council and it advises on matters relating to education, training and registration. The Education and Training Panels, whose membership is drawn from the Education and Training Committee, deal with Visitors' reports, annual monitoring reports and major or minor changes to programmes.

The HPC (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2009 provides that the Education and Training Committee be comprised of at least one member from each of our regulated professions, together with five lay members. Given the current

composition of Council following the restructuring process, it was necessary to recruit some non council committee members to fulfill the registrant requirement.

The exercise to appoint these members was completed in October, with the new Education and Training Committee having been appointed by Council at their meeting on 7 October 2009.

Full details on the membership of the Committee and committee papers are available on our website: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/committees/educationandtraining/>

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## Dates for your diary

Our Council and committee meetings are held in public. All meetings start at 10.30am and take place at Park House unless otherwise stated. More information, including minutes and agendas can be found at [www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council](http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/council).

### Council and committee meetings: January 2010 – March 2010

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 02 February 2010   | Education and Training Committee             |
| Wednesday 10 February 2010 | Finance and Resources Committee              |
| Thursday 11 February 2010  | Council meeting                              |
| Thursday 18 February 2010  | Communications Committee (11 am)             |
| Wednesday 24 February 2010 | Audit Committee                              |
| Thursday 25 February 2010  | Fitness to Practise Committee                |
| Wednesday 10 March 2010    | Education and Training Committee (am and pm) |
| Wednesday 17 March 2010    | Finance and Resources Committee              |
| Thursday 25 March 2010     | Council meeting                              |

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# Become a 'Partner' at the Health Professions Council

## **CPD Assessors – Dietitians Arts Therapists**

We are currently recruiting for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Assessors who review profiles for the purpose of continuing registration.

You will need to have sound written and verbal communication skills and the ability to analyse complex information to form reasoned decisions.

Training will be provided and a fee will be paid as well as travel and accommodation expenses in accordance with our Partner Expense policy.

This appointment will last for two years from commencement, and will then be subject to reappointment.

We do not accept CVs, so for a recruitment pack and further details about the role, please refer to our website: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/partners/> or email [partners@hpc-uk.org](mailto:partners@hpc-uk.org)

Please contact Partners on 020 7840 9776/9771 for further information about this position.

**Closing date:** 22 January 2010  
**Interview dates:** w/c 15 February 2010  
**Compulsory training date:** 24 March 2010

The HPC is committed to equality of opportunity and actively guards against unfair discrimination on any grounds (including sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, race, sex, age or disability).

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## Contact us

What do you think of this newsletter? Is there anything you would like to see in future issues? We would like to hear your views, so please email [newsletter@hpc-uk.org](mailto:newsletter@hpc-uk.org)

To subscribe or unsubscribe please email [newsletter@hpc-uk.org](mailto:newsletter@hpc-uk.org)

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## Alternative formats

To request a copy of this newsletter in an alternative format, or in Welsh, please email [newsletter@hpc-uk.org](mailto:newsletter@hpc-uk.org) or call +44 (0)20 7840 9806.