
Communications Committee – Wednesday 21 May 2008

Press Coverage Report

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Since the last Communications Committee in February 2008, the Communications Manager has issued press releases on the fees increase consultation, HPC's response to the government consultation on practitioner psychologists and the fourth council election. She has also issued news items and written articles for the website and a range of professional journals on renewals, CPD, consultations, new publications, and FTP cases.

The Communications Officer continues to issue weekly media alerts highlighting forthcoming Fitness to Practise Hearings and has issued 11 press releases on professionals who have been struck off or suspended between October and January.

Coverage is monitored on a daily basis and the attached reports detail the coverage that has been received each month from February 2008 up to the end of April 2008.

Decision

This paper is for information only. No decision is required.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

Press coverage reports for each month from February 2008 up to the end of April 2008.

Date of paper

21 May 2008

Coverage Report (February - April 2008)



The following coverage appeared between the 1 and 29 February 2008

Fitness to Practise

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
05.02.08	The Star Rotherham	Dead patient scan scam	Sean David Wale – ODP An operating department practitioner, was caught out after claiming time off in lieu for an on call shift, where he claimed to have attended a scan of a patient who had actually died weeks before has been cautioned...
07.02.08	Merthyr Express (Wales)	PCH worker is suspended	George Tofarides – PH A physiotherapist has been suspended after a disciplinary panel found he failed to make proper patient referrals after suffering from personal problems.....
21.02.08	The Journal (City Edition)	Self Harm claim	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A North East biomedical scientist has been suspended from her job.....
22.02.08	Express & Echo (Exeter)	Hospital medic struck off after	Jennie Andrews – BS

		cannabis use	A medic at the Royal Devon amp; Exeter Hospital who tested positive for cannabis after failing to turn up for work has been struck off.....
22.02.08	Guardian.co.uk	Hospital scientist stole bacteria to kill herself, panel told	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist who stole bacteria from the hospital where she worked in order to end her life by giving herself septicaemia has been suspended...
22.02.08	Telegraph.co.uk	Scientist stole MRSA bacteria in suicide bid	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist with a promising career stole potentially deadly MRSA and E-coli germs from a hospital lab in a plan to commit suicide has.....
22.02.08	Daily Mail	Biomedical scientist stole deadly germ from laboratory to kill herself	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist with a promising career took potentially-deadly germs from a hospital lab in a plan to kill herself....
22.02.08	Evening Chronicle (Newcastle)	Depressed scientist stole deadly germs	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist with a promising career took potentially-

			deadly germs from a hospital lab in a plan to kill herself....
23.02.08	The Press Association	Woman stole germs to 'kill herself'	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist stole potentially lethal germs from a hospital lab for the alleged purpose of self-harming a health regulator has said.....
23.02.08	Mirror.co.uk	Suicidal scientist steals deadly bacteria	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A scientist revealed yesterday how she stole deadly bacteria from a hospital lab with the intention of killing herself...
23.02.08	Driffield Times	Scientist stole deadly bacteria	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A Newcastle biomedical scientist stole potentially lethal germs from a hospital lab for the alleged purpose of self-harming, a health regulator has said....
23.02.08	Birmingham Mail	Boffin germ suicide bid	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist said she stole potentially lethal germs from a hospital lab because she intended to kill herself...
24.02.08	Weston & Somerset Mercury	Hospital computer porn stash	David Edwards – RO

			A radiographer at Weston General Hospital downloaded and stored thousands of pornographic photos.....
25.02.08	Yorkshire Evening Post	Scientist is struck off for drinking	Jane Gill - BS A scientist with Leeds Teaching NHS Trust has been permanently struck off the medical register for working under the influence of alcohol....
26.02.08	Newshopper.co.uk	Caution for sharing patient information	 A radiographer working at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup has received a three-year caution for revealing confidential information about a patient....
26.02.08	Thisislocallondon.co.uk	Caution for sharing patient information	 A radiographer working at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup has received a three-year caution for revealing confidential information about a patient....

Other coverage

Date	Publication / Website	Title of article	Summary
01.02.	She	How to choose a	How do I go about finding a good

08	magazine	physiotherapist	physiotherapist in my area? Article about ensuring that physiotherapists are qualified professionals registered with HPC.
04.02.08	The Western Mail (Cardiff)	Higher education for paramedics	Article about Swansea University and the Welch Ambulance Services NHS putting paramedics through a higher education programme that meets HPC requirements.
07.02.08	The Sun	Do you have a 999 calling?	Article about working as an ambulance paramedic – mentions that HPC requirements qualification requirements.
13.02.08	Nigerian Tribune	Laboratory services and the quality of medical care	Article about non medically qualified staff. It mentions that there is an absence of a national equivalent in Nigeria of the HPC.
17.02.08	Mail on Sunday	Which shoe is better for you?	Article about the effects of wearing different shoes. The article mentions that chiropodists and podiatrists have to be registered with the HPC.
19.02.08	Stornoway Gazette	Meeting the standards	Article about CPD and the workshop taking place in March 5 th for registered health professionals.
20.02.08	Kingston Borough Guardian	One of the UK's leading private clinics is right here in Kingston	Article about the private clinic, London Orthotic Consultancy. The article states that all LOC clinicians are registered with the HPC.
21.02.08	Legal Week	When late payment is misconduct	Article about the HPC's position on late payment.
February 08	Complete Nutrition	Health professions council	An update on recent initiatives such as the employer events, campaigning etc by the HPC

Professional Bodies

Date	Publication	Title of article
01.02.08	The Biomedical Scientist	President's inauguration
01.02.08	Royal college of speech and language therapist bulletin	What is robust regulation? Health Professions Council President Anna Van der Gaag argues that robust professional regulation is at the heart of quality improvement.
15.02.08	IBMS – The Institute of Biomedical Science	Registration renewal: A health professions council statement

The following coverage appeared between the 1 March and 31 March 2008

Fitness to Practise

Date	Publication/ Website	Title of article	Summary
07.03.08	Daily Mail	Resolved – Mr Derek Gale v Daily Mail	Derek Gale – AT Mr Derek Gale, complained that an article which sought to investigate the therapy centre he ran – following his suspension from the HPC.....
12.3.08	The Guardian online	Scientist stole deadly germs	Jennifer Bainbridge – BS A biomedical scientist working at North Tyneside General Hospital stole potentially deadly MRSA and E-coli germs...
31.03.08 31.03.08	Buckinghamham today	NHS Worker struck off over stolen drugs	Alan Sutherland – ODP A Hartlepool hospital worker has been struck off the register for health professionals after he stole drugs....

Professional Bodies

Date	Publication	Title of article
Spring 2008	The Journal of Podiatric Medicine	Editorial
Spring 2008	The Journal of Podiatric Medicine	Health Professions Council Reports
Spring 2008	The Journal of Podiatric Medicine	From the Chairman
March 2008	Physiotherapy Frontline	Right to practise risk