

# Health Professions Council

## Council

12<sup>th</sup> September 2006

### Consultation on the Guidance Notes for Aspirant Groups seeking statutory regulation

#### Executive Summary and Recommendations

##### Introduction

The process for assessing applications against a defined set of criteria has been in existence since spring 2003. Council reviewed the process in autumn 2004 and agreed that the new process would be in two parts.

As there is no “case history” upon which to draw on, the executive wishes to bring to Councils attention two issues in relation to aspirant groups which now require a decision. It is proposed that there is amendment to the Guidance Notes and as such Council is required to consult on the proposed changes:

- That the aspirant group be requested to draft Standards of Proficiency for the profession proposed for regulation and that these form part of the submission.
- That the aspirant group be requested to state what it believes will be the entry level qualification on the day the HPC Register opens.
- Council agrees that the date for implementing, subject to the outcome of the consultation, the changes to the Guidance Notes is July 2007.

##### Recommendations

Council is requested to agree:

- 1. on the proposed consultation timetable.**
- 2. the wording of the draft consultation document.**
- 3. agree that the changes will be effective from April 2007.**

## Resource implications

- (i) Executive time in preparing the consultation document
- (ii) Printing of the consultation document
- (iii) Distribution of the consultation document by an external mailing house
- (iv) Analyzing the responses to the consultation
- (v) Approval by Council of the new criteria
- (vi) Reprinting the Guidance for professions seeking statutory regulation

## Financial implications

There are cost implications for items (ii), (iii) and (vi).

As the end of the consultation will be within the financial year 2006/7, the major cost of reprinting the Guidance Notes can be taken from the 2007/8 Budget.

## Background Papers

The existing **Guidance Notes for Occupations considering applying for regulation by the Health Professions Council** (dated December 2004) ~ for information.

## Appendices

The following appendices are enclosed for reference:-

1. The proposed consultation timetable.

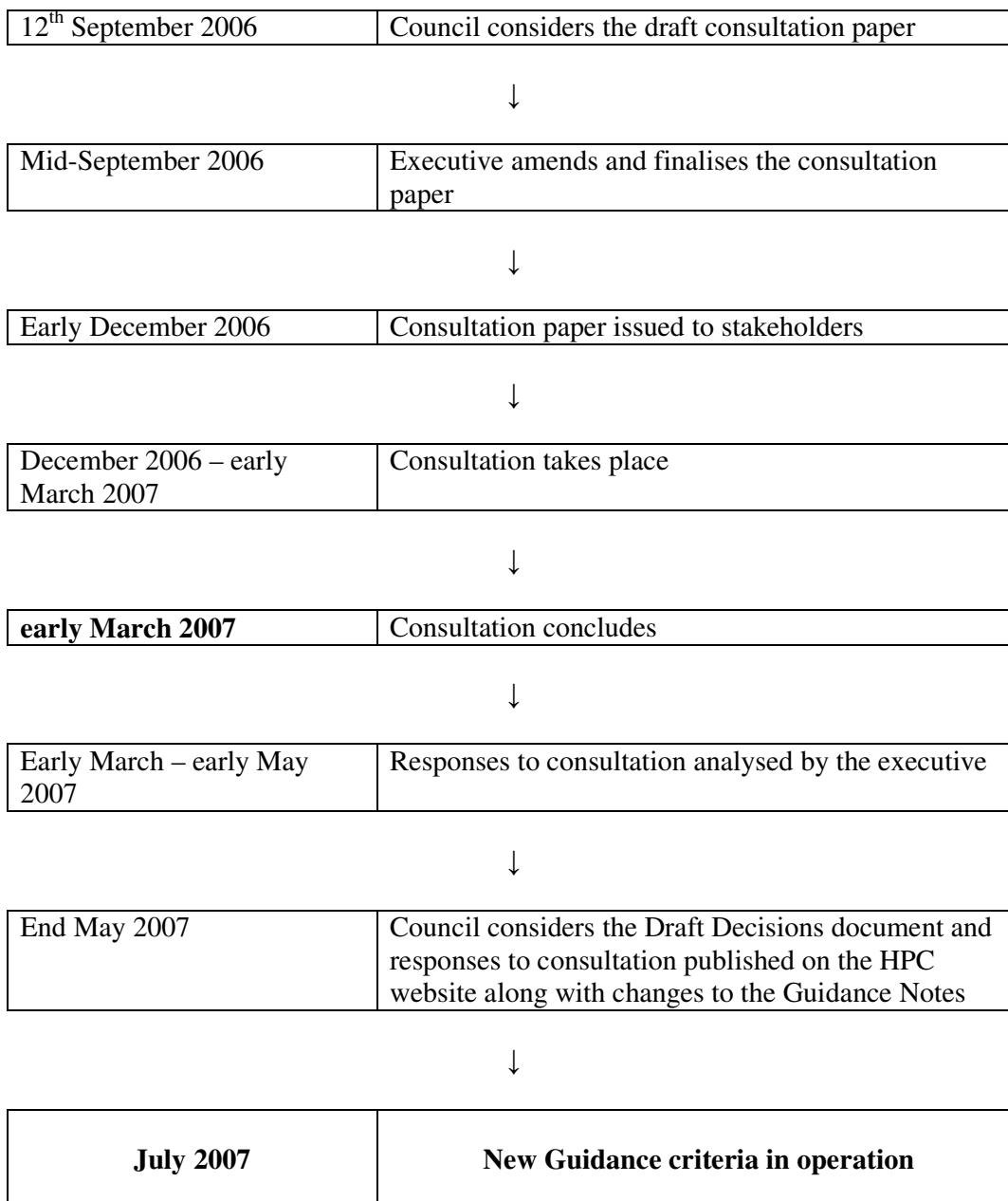
*Appendix 1*

2. The wording of the draft consultation document

*Appendix 2*

**Appendix 1: THE GUIDANCE NOTES FOR OCCUPATIONS  
CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR REGULATION BY THE  
HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL**

**PROPOSED CONSULTATION TIMETABLE**



# REVIEW OF ASPIRANT GROUPS

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3. Summary of progress to date for each group	9-11

Date last updated: August 2006

<b>ALPHABETICAL LIST OF APPLICANT GROUPS/SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP</b>
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	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Profession/Practitioners</b>
1	Acupuncture Regulatory Working Group	Acupuncture
2	The Alliance of Private Sector Chiropody & Podiatry Practitioners	Foot Health Practitioners
3	Artists in Mental Health	Artists in Mental Health
4	Association of Child Psychotherapists	Child Psychotherapists
5	Association of Dance Movement Therapists	Dance Movement Therapy
6	Association of Operating Department Practitioners	Operating Department Practitioners
7	Association of Osteomyologists	Osteomyologists
8	Association of Professional Ambulance Personnel	Ambulance Practitioners, Advanced Ambulance Practitioners and Ambulance Technicians
9	British Academy of Audiologists	Audiology
10	British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy	Counselling & Psychotherapy
11	British Association for Nutritional Therapy	Nutritional Therapy
12	British Association of Play Therapists	Play Therapists
13	British Association for Psychoanalytic & Psychodynamic Supervision	Psychotherapists & Counsellors
14	British Association of Sports Rehabilitators & Trainers	Sports rehabilitators & trainers
15	British Confederation of Psychotherapists	Psychotherapists
16	British Orthopaedic Association	Orthopaedic Technicians
17	The British Psychological Society	Applied Psychologists
18	British Society of Clinical Hypnosis	Hypnotherapy/Clinical Hypnotherapy
19	British Society of Echocardiographers	Echocardiography
20	British Association of Tissue Banking	Tissue Banking
21	Cambridge Society for Psychotherapy	Psychotherapists & Counsellors
22	College of Health Care Chaplains	Health Care Chaplains
23	The College of Psychoanalysts UK	Psychotherapists & Counsellors
24	The Commission for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	Healthcare Assistants in the Prison Service
25	Confederation of Analytical Psychologists	Psychotherapists & Counsellors
26	Craniosacral Therapy Association of the UK	Craniosacral Therapists
27	Diabetic Retinopathy	Diabetic Retinopathy
28	Hospital Play Staff Education Trust	Hospital Play Staff

Continued/...

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Profession/Practitioners</b>
29	Institute of Medical Illustrators	Clinical Photographers/Videographers/Illustrators
30	Institute of Sterile Services Management	Sterile Services Managers
31	Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists & Technologists	Maxillofacial Prosthetic Technicians
32	International Society of Professional Counsellors	Psychotherapists & Counsellors
33	National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice	Surgical Care Practitioners
34	National Sports Medicine Institute of the United Kingdom	Exercise & Sports Care
35	The Nutrition Society	Nutritionists
36	Orthotic Research & Locomotor Assessment	Gait Analysis/Gait Laboratory workers
37	Regional Laboratory for Toxicology	Toxicologists
38	Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists	Clinical Physiologists
39	The Royal College of Surgeons of England	Surgical Care Practitioners
40	The Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists	Clinical Perfusion Scientists
41	Society of Health Advisers in Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Health Advisers in Sexually Transmitted Diseases
42	The Society of Sports Therapists	Sports Therapists
43	Society of Vascular Technology of Great Britain & Ireland	Vascular Technologists
44	Sports Massage Association	Sports Massage Therapists
45	Thrive	Horticultural Therapists
46	The Trichological Society	Trichologists
47	United Kingdom Association of Sonographers	Sonography
48	UK Council for Psychotherapy	Psychotherapists & Counsellors
49	UK Council for Health Informatics	Health Informatics
50	United Kingdom Voluntary Register for Public Health Specialists	Public Health Specialists
51	Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists	Clinical Technologists
52	Voluntary Registration Council	Healthcare Scientists

**CONTACT DETAILS OF GROUPS WHO HAVE CONTACTED  
HPC**

<b>Name of Aspirant Group</b>	2. <a href="#">The Alliance of Private Sector Chiropractic &amp; Podiatry Practitioners</a>		
<b>Profession</b>	Foot Health Practitioners		
<b>Contact Address details</b>	3 Pendorian Avenue Colwyn Bay Conwy LL29 8EA		
<b>Other Contact details</b>	Web: <a href="http://www.thealliancepsp.com">http://www.thealliancepsp.com</a>		
	Telephone: 01492 535795		
	Fax: 01492 531852		
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:admin@thealliancepsp.com">admin@thealliancepsp.com</a>		
<b>Names of Key contacts</b>	<b>Co-Principal &amp; President</b> Victor Fletcher	<b>Co-Principal &amp; Executive Officer</b> John Falkner- Heylings	<b>Senior Administrator</b> Janet Taylor
<b>Current number of members</b>	Information not available		

**CONTACT WITH HPC**

<b>Date of first contact with HPC</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2004
<b>Letters received from aspirant group</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2004 letter from Janet Taylor  20 <sup>th</sup> March 2005 letter from Janet Taylor

**MEETINGS**

<b>Dates of meetings between aspirant group and HPC</b>	<b>Attendees at meetings</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> January 2005	Norma Brook, Marc Seale Judith O’Gorman, Victor Fletcher, John Falkner-Heylings, Janet Taylor



<b>Name of Aspirant Group</b>	35. <a href="#">The Nutrition Society</a>	
<b>Profession</b>	Nutritionists	
<b>Contact Address details</b>	10 Cambridge Court 210 Shepherds Bush Road London W6 7NJ	
<b>Other Contact details</b>	Web: <a href="http://www.nutsoc.org.uk">http://www.nutsoc.org.uk</a>	
	Telephone: 020 7602 0228	
	Fax: 020 7602 1756	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:office@nutsoc.org.uk">office@nutsoc.org.uk</a>	
<b>Names of Key contacts</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b> Frederick Wentworth-Bowyer	<b>Registrar &amp; Membership Executive</b> Jackie Landman
<b>Current number of members</b>	Information unavailable	

#### CONTACT WITH HPC

<b>Date of first contact with HPC</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2002
<b>Letters received from aspirant group</b>	Letter to HPC from Jackie Landman dated 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2002

#### MEETINGS

<b>Dates of meetings between aspirant group</b>	<b>Attendees at meetings</b>
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<b>and HPC</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2004	Marc Seale, Karen Scott, Jackie Landman, Bob Wenlock

<b>Name of Aspirant Group</b>	42. <a href="#">The Society of Sports Therapists</a>		
<b>Profession</b>	Sports Therapists		
<b>Contact Address details</b>	16 Royal Terrace Glasgow G3 7NY		
<b>Other Contact details</b>	Web: <a href="http://www.society-of-sports-therapists.org">http://www.society-of-sports-therapists.org</a>		
	Telephone: 0845 600 2613		
	Fax: 0141 332 5335		
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:admin@society-of-sports-therapists.org">admin@society-of-sports-therapists.org</a>		
<b>Names of Key contacts</b>	<b>Chairman</b> Prof. Graham Smith	<b>Vice-Chairman</b> Keith Waldon	<b>Company Secretary</b> Maggie McNerney
<b>Current number of members</b>	2,486		

**CONTACT WITH HPC**

<b>Date of first contact with HPC</b>	Letter from Keith Waldon to CPSM dated 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2002
<b>Letters received from aspirant group</b>	15.2.2002; 30.5.2003; 10.2.2004; 27.5.2004; 17.8.2004; 18.4.2005; 17.5.2005; 19.11.2005; 14.3.2006;

**MEETINGS**

<b>Dates of meetings between aspirant group and HPC</b>	<b>Attendees at meetings</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> May 2003	Norma Brook, Marc Seale Graham Smith, Keith Waldon, Cathy Savage

1 <sup>st</sup> February 2005	Norma Brook, Marc Seale Graham Smith, Keith Waldon, Maggie McNerney, Roz Nottingham, Karen Scott
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<b>Name of Aspirant Group</b>	49. <a href="#">UK Council for Health Informatics (UKCHIP)</a>		
<b>Profession</b>	Health Informatics		
<b>Contact Address details</b>	P O Box 492 Chichester PO19 6WW		
<b>Other Contact details</b>	Web: <a href="http://www.ukchip.man.ac.uk">http://www.ukchip.man.ac.uk</a>		
	Telephone: not listed		
	Fax: not listed		
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:admin@ukchip.net">admin@ukchip.net</a>		
<b>Names of Key contacts</b>	<b>President</b> Dr Glyn Hayes	<b>Vice President</b> Tony Eardley,	<b>Registrar</b> Diane Bullman
<b>Current number of members</b>	1,000 (approx.)		

**CONTACT WITH HPC**

<b>Date of first contact with HPC</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2004
<b>Letters received from aspirant group</b>	None.

**MEETINGS**

<b>Dates of meetings between aspirant group</b>	<b>Attendees at meetings</b>
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<b>and HPC</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2004	Norma Brook, Marc Seale Chris Taylor (V/Pres.), Diane Bulman (Prof. Development Support Manager), Paul Lawton (Secretary)

### SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE FOR EACH GROUP

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Profession/Practitioners</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1	Acupuncture Regulatory Working Group	Acupuncture	No application
2	The Alliance of Private Sector Chiropractic & Podiatry Practitioners	Foot Health Practitioners	No application
3	Artists in Mental Health	Artists in Mental Health	No application
4	Association of Child Psychotherapists	Child Psychotherapists	Possible regulation
5	Association of Dance Movement Therapists	Dance Movement Therapy	Possible regulation
6	Association of Operating Department Practitioners	Operating Department Practitioners	Regulation (October 2004)
7	Association of Osteomyologists	Osteomyologists	No application
8	Association of Professional Ambulance Personnel	Ambulance Practitioners, Advanced Ambulance Practitioners and Ambulance Technicians	Regulation scheduled
9	British Academy of Audiologists	Audiology	Possible regulation
10	British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy	Counselling & Psychotherapy	Possible regulation
11	British Association for Nutritional Therapy	Nutritional Therapy	Not yet timetabled
12	British Association of Play Therapists	Play Therapists	Not yet timetabled
13	British Association for Psychoanalytic & Psychodynamic Supervision	Psychotherapists & Counsellors	Possible regulation
14	British Association of Sports Rehabilitators & Trainers	Sports rehabilitators & trainers	Not yet timetabled
15	British Confederation of Psychotherapists	Psychotherapists	Possible regulation
16	British Orthopaedic Association	Orthopaedic Technicians	Not yet timetabled
17	The British Psychological Society	Applied Psychologists	Regulation scheduled
18	British Society of Clinical Hypnosis	Hypnotherapy/Clinical Hypnotherapy	Not yet timetabled
19	British Society of Echocardiographers	Echocardiography	Regulation
20	British Association of Tissue Banking	Tissue Banking	Possible regulation

21	Cambridge Society for Psychotherapy	Psychotherapists & Counsellors	Possible regulation
22	College of Health Care Chaplains	Health Care Chaplains	Not yet timetabled
23	The College of Psychoanalysts UK	Psychotherapists & Counsellors	Possible regulation

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	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Profession/Practitioners</b>	<b>Progress</b>
24	The Commission for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	Healthcare Assistants in the Prison Service	Not yet timetabled
25	Confederation of Analytical Psychologists	Psychotherapists & Counsellors	Regulation scheduled
26	Craniosacral Therapy Association of the UK	Craniosacral Therapists	Not yet timetabled
27	Diabetic Retinopathy	Diabetic Retinopathy	Not yet timetabled
28	Hospital Play Staff Education Trust	Hospital Play Staff	Not yet timetabled
29	Institute of Medical Illustrators	Clinical Photographers/Videographers/Illustrators	Regulation scheduled
30	Institute of Sterile Services Management	Sterile Services Managers	Not yet timetabled
31	Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists & Technologists	Maxillofacial Prosthetic Technicians	Regulation scheduled
32	International Society of Professional Counsellors	Counsellors	Regulation scheduled
33	National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice	Surgical Care Practitioners	Regulation scheduled
34	National Sports Medicine Institute of the United Kingdom	Exercise & Sports Care	Not yet timetabled
35	The Nutrition Society	Nutritionists	Not yet timetabled
36	Orthotic Research & Locomotor Assessment	Gait Analysis/Gait Laboratory workers	Not yet timetabled
37	Regional Laboratory for Toxicology	Toxicologists	Not yet timetabled
38	Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists	Clinical Physiologists	Regulation scheduled
39	The Royal College of Surgeons of England	Surgical Care Practitioners	Regulation scheduled
40	The Society of Clinical	Clinical Perfusion Scientists	Regulation

	Perfusion Scientists		scheduled
41	Society of Health Advisers in Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Health Advisers in Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Not yet timetabled
42	The Society of Sports Therapists	Sports Therapists	Not yet timetabled

Continued/...

	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Profession/Practitioners</b>	<b>Progress</b>
43	Society of Vascular Technology of Great Britain & Ireland	Vascular Technologists	Not yet timetabled
44	Sports Massage Association	Sports Massage Therapists	Not yet timetabled
45	Thrive	Horticultural Therapists	Not yet timetabled
46	The Trichological Society	Trichologists	Not yet timetabled
47	United Kingdom Association of Sonographers	Sonography	Not yet timetabled
48	UK Council for Psychotherapy	Psychotherapists & Counsellors	Regulation scheduled
49	UK Council for Health Informatics	Health Informatics	Not yet timetabled
50	United Kingdom Voluntary Register for Public Health Specialists	Public Health Specialists	Not yet timetabled
51	Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists	Clinical Technologists	Regulation scheduled
52	Voluntary Registration Council	Healthcare Scientists	Not yet timetabled

## **Appendix 2: WORDING OF THE DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

### **Proposed amendments to the guidance notes for occupations considering applying for regulation by the health professions council**

The draft consultation paper will be a letter with the proposed wording:  
 “December 2006

Dear Stakeholder,

The Health Professions Council under Part II of the Health Professions Council Order, 2001, article (17) may make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health concerning any profession which should be regulated in relation to section 60(1)(b) of the Health Act 1999. The Council has been operating the process of accepting applications from aspirant groups (also known as new professions) since spring 2003.

The Council reviewed the process in September 2006 and proposes two changes to the criteria for professions seeking regulation which will be effective from July 2007.

The proposed changes are set out below:

#### **Amendment to criterion 1 : The occupation must cover a discrete area of activity displaying some homogeneity**

Currently states	<p>This criterion covers <b>what a profession’s scope of practice is.</b>                  The Council will assess applications for evidence that demonstrates that the applicant occupation practises activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are distinctly its own</li> <li>• Are common across the occupation</li> <li>• Are distinct from the scope of practice of other occupations, although there may be some overlap.</li> </ul>
Proposed change: the existing wording + the additional words (in red)	<p>This criterion covers <b>what a profession’s scope of practice is.</b>                  The Council will assess applications for evidence that demonstrates that the applicant occupation practises activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are distinctly its own</li> <li>• Are common across the occupation</li> <li>• Are distinct from the scope of practice of other occupations, although there may be some overlap.</li> </ul> <p style="color: red;"><b>The applicant occupation must submit the draft Standards of Proficiency for the proposed profession. The Standards of Proficiency are the threshold standards which will allow for safe and effective practice.</b></p>

The Council will expect applicant occupations to follow the HPC's template when drafting the Standards of Proficiency for the proposed profession. The template and examples of the Standards of Proficiency for the 13 professions which we currently regulate may be downloaded from the HPC website at the following link:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/standards/>

**Amendment to criterion 6 : The occupation must have defined routes of entry**

<p>Currently states</p>	<p>This criterion covers <b>how a profession ensures its practitioners have the requisite knowledge and skills on entry</b>. The Council will assess evidence of how entry to the applicant occupation is controlled. The Council will seek evidence that only individuals who have chosen defined routes of entry are recognised as being practitioners of the profession, in the eyes of educational institutions, employers, professional bodies and (where appropriate) the public at large. The Council will also assess evidence that the applicant occupation either already has a Subject Benchmark from the Quality Assurance Agency or equivalent body, or intends to work towards one as part of the process of becoming a regulated profession.</p>
<p>Proposed change: the existing wording + the additional words (in red)</p>	<p>This criterion covers <b>how a profession ensures its practitioners have the requisite knowledge and skills on entry</b>. The Council will assess evidence of how entry to the applicant occupation is controlled. The Council will seek evidence that only individuals who have chosen defined routes of entry are recognised as being practitioners of the profession, in the eyes of educational institutions, employers, professional bodies and (where appropriate) the public at large. The Council will also assess evidence that the applicant occupation either already has a Subject Benchmark from the Quality Assurance Agency or equivalent body, or intends to work towards one as part of the process of becoming a regulated profession.</p> <p>The applicant occupation must state what the <u>actual</u> threshold entry qualifications are on the day that the HPC Register opens.</p> <p>The applicant occupation must provide documentary evidence of where (i.e. education providers) the threshold entry qualifications are delivered.</p> <p>The applicant occupation must provide documentary evidence of external quality assurance of the threshold entry qualifications.</p>



## Your response

We would welcome your responses to this consultation. However, if you wish to address the questions below, that would be helpful to us.

1. Do you agree with the proposed additional words to criterion 1?
2. Do you agree with the proposed additional words to criterion 6?

Any further comments that you have on the proposed amendments would be very welcome.

This consultation will put the Council's proposals before a range of stakeholders, including professional bodies, and others with an interest in the regulation of professions. We would like to invite any individual or organisation with an interest in these issues to respond to this consultation. The consultation will run until early March 2007 (nb: subject to Council agreement – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2006), and the document will be available on our website to download.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please send your response to:

Guidance Notes for Aspirant Groups consultation  
Health Professions Council  
Park House  
184 Kennington Park Road  
London, SE11 4BU

Or by Email to: [consultation@hpc-uk.org](mailto:consultation@hpc-uk.org)

Enquiries may be made by telephone: 0207 840 9718  
Website: [www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations/](http://www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/consultations/)

If you would prefer your response not to be made public, please indicate this when you respond. We will publish on our website a summary of the responses we receive, and the decisions we have taken as a result.

We look forward to receiving your comments,  
Yours sincerely,

Anna van der Gaag  
President of the Health Professions Council

If you would like this document in alternative formats, please contact us on [info@hpc-uk.org](mailto:info@hpc-uk.org) or 0207 840 9718."

