

Agenda Item 5

Enclosure 3

Paper RC 10 / 02

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

**OVERSEAS ASSESSMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY APPLICANTS**

From : Secretary to the Committee

22/05/02

OVERSEAS ASSESSMENTS FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY APPLICANTS

The Occupational Therapists Board of the CPSM was running two separate systems for the assessment of overseas applicants.

All international applicants were asked to sit a written examination held at Oxford Brookes. A contract was drawn up between the University and the CPSM for holding these examinations which take place four times a year. The original contract was for three years and ended in January 2001. It was then renewed in January 2001 for another three years; until January 2004. The contract was between The Occupational Therapists Board and Oxford Brookes.

The contract contains a termination clause that states either party may terminate the agreement upon nine months prior notice.

There is currently no contract between the Health Professions Council and Oxford Brookes.

International applicants pay an application fee of £155 to the Board and then an examination fee of £110 to Oxford Brookes.

The Council is asked to agree how it might wish to proceed with the registration of non-European trained occupational therapists who currently undertake an examination process provided under contract by Oxford Brookes. Should the HPC sign a new contract with Oxford Brookes? and how long should the contract continue for?

The assessment system for European applicants is different since they are all assessed on an individual basis by a pair of assessors. EEC applicants have the option to sit an examination if they wish but International applicants have no option to be assessed.

European applicants pay a single application fee of £155 and are assessed by pairs of assessors. The OT Board advertised for assessors and originally employed 8 of them (three pairs). However, over the last three years five assessors have left the team leaving 3 assessors. The (Ex) Board Chairman, Sandra Benson has joined the team to make it up to two pairs.

An advertisement has recently appeared in the British Journal of Occupational Therapy for more assessors and 10 expressions of interest have been received. However, they will need to be interviewed, selected and trained.

The Council is asked to approve the holding of interviews and training of further overseas assessors for this profession. The Council is asked to delegate this task to the Registration Committee.