

The regulation of public health specialists

At UKPHR we are pleased to learn that the Department will not now proceed with a Section 60 Order to introduce statutory regulation of public health specialists by HCPC.

Ministers are currently reviewing how best to take forward the work of the Law Commissions of England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to reform the regulation of health and (in England) social care professionals.

Ministers have decided it may be more appropriate to look at the regulation of public health specialists from backgrounds other than medicine or dentistry once this work is complete.

This is why the Department will not be proceeding with the Section 60 Order at this time.

This announcement makes much more significant the work UKPHR has started on revalidation and on routes to registration.

In July, UKPHR's Board set up two task and finish groups with remits to:

- 1) Recommend to the Board by the summer of 2016 a scheme for revalidation applicable to all UKPHR's registrants.
- 2) Review the routes to registration for public health specialists currently operated by UKPHR.

UKPHR remains committed to maintaining equivalence between all public health specialists, without distinction of the professional disciplines they are from.

We also remain committed to extending practitioner registration so that it will be available to all practitioners wherever they may work in the UK. We will focus clearly on the achievement of embedding of practitioner registration in the UK's public health system.

For the past few years, some of UKPHR's energy has, inevitably, been diverted to addressing the case made by the Department for statutory regulation of public health specialists by HCPC.

We believe, as we have said all along, that to support the delivery of the most effective public health practice possible there should be a single, holistic regulatory approach.

Now we intend to devote our undivided attention to providing that single approach and contributing to the system-wide efforts already in progress to make public health practice throughout the UK as effective as it is possible to be.