

# UKPHR Newsletter Summer 2018

# UKPHR

## Public Health Register

Protecting the public – improving practice

## Welcome from our Chair, Andrew Jones

Welcome to this Summer 2018 edition of our newsletter. I hope you find it interesting and useful. I am coming towards the end of my first year as Chair of UKPHR and its Board and I must say I feel privileged to be leading such a significant organisation. A long time ago, I became registrant number one on UKPHR's register of public health specialists so it is all the more satisfying for me to be "coming home" as the register's leader.

Leading UKPHR is a demanding role but it is also, for me personally, very satisfying. At the same time, the work of Chair is challenging and rewarding.

**Challenging because for a small organisation we have great ambition and a heavy workload of projects**, including the three projects expanded on in this newsletter: introducing revalidation, changing the portfolio assessment routes for public health specialists and reviewing practitioner registration.

Rewarding because we are respected by our public health partners and **our place in the UK's public health system is now well-established**. I saw this first-hand when I met Public Health England's Chief Executive, Duncan Selbie earlier this year.

I shall expand on our achievements and challenges when I address our Annual Meeting on 27 September. You can read about our arrangements for this year's Annual Meeting in this newsletter.



## Registration news from our Registrar

I have **responsibility for all UKPHR's registration services** and I very much appreciate that I follow in the footsteps of a number of prestigious Registrars previously. It is an honour to hold this post and I work hard with our office staff to ensure that our high standards are always maintained. I have experienced major changes in my professional career this year and I am grateful to UKPHR's office staff for supporting me so considerately through the changes that have taken place.

The current registration statistics are as follows:

Category of registrant	Total number registered <small>*correct at time of publications</small>
Specialist	844
Specialty Registrar	9
Practitioner	400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1253</b>

There are currently no fitness to practice cases in progress.

One of my roles is to chair the Registration Approvals Committee, which meets monthly to consider recommendations received from the Registration Panel and to admit applicants to the register. This year, I have started off a renewed consideration in the Committee about **UKPHR's future arrangements for Quality Assurance** as we embrace the changes that will flow from the three projects described in this newsletter. I am grateful to my fellow members of the Committee for their support and for the positive way they have embraced this work.



### What's New...

*Welcome from our Chair...page 1*

*Registration news from our Registrar...page 1*

*Revalidation update...page 2*

*Spotlight on professional appraisal...page 2*

*New equivalence portfolio assessment route for public health specialists...page 2*

*Annual Meeting and Open Day...page 3*

*Practitioner registration...page 3*

*Profile: Helen Jeffries...page 3*

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UKPHR is publishing the application form for use by specialists wishing to apply for registration as public health specialists under the new Specialist Registration by Portfolio Assessment route which UKPHR is opening on 01 September 2018.

UKPHR has established a **two-stage application process**. First, specialists wishing to access this route must apply for permission to submit a portfolio for assessment. This stage is intended to ascertain an applicant's eligibility and readiness. If UKPHR grants permission, an applicant may then submit a portfolio for assessment. What we are now publishing relates to this first stage, namely:

1. The application form to be completed by applicants;
2. Guidance for applicants on completing the application form;
3. A structured reference for use by the referee whom an applicant must put forward;
4. Our answers to some of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) we have received.

<https://www.ukphr.org/specialist-registration-by-portfolio-assessment/>

## New equivalence portfolio assessment route for public health specialists

UKPHR's Chief Executive, David Kidney, says:

"Since UKPHR's Board made its decision to introduce the new equivalence portfolio assessment route in 2017, an implementation group, led by Moderator Judith Hooper, has been working incredibly hard on making all the practical arrangements for its introduction. The Board announced an opening date for the new route of 1st September 2018.

"These publications will enable specialists who may be interested in applying for registration under this route to see practically what steps they will need to take in order to obtain UKPHR's permission to submit a portfolio for assessment under this route.

"The work of the implementation group continues in order to produce the materials needed for the new portfolio, guidance in relation to its assessment and training for assessors. All of us at UKPHR are extremely grateful to the members of the implementation group for their skill and attention. They are working under intense time pressure and we appreciate their commitment and dedication."

On receipt of completed applications forms for the first stage after 1st September, UKPHR will check the application form and supporting materials, including the reference for compliance with UKPHR's requirements. Applications that are found to be in order will be assessed by a single assessor and UKPHR has committed to make a decision within six weeks. An application fee of £102 will be payable.

**The requirements for the first-stage application are new and no doubt there will be queries that people will have about them.** You are welcome to contact me if you want to ask for further details or for clarification : [d.kidney@ukphr.org](mailto:d.kidney@ukphr.org)

The second would be between April 2020 and March 2021 and so on. We recommend that registrants arrange their PA for the same month each year to maintain a consistent annual cycle.

In the first year that our revalidation scheme will run for (up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020), we will not expect specialist registrants who revalidate within this year to provide evidence of completing a PA.

If a registrant's revalidation date falls before our revalidation scheme has been running for 5 years (1<sup>st</sup> April 2024), upon their revalidation application, they must submit a copy of their most recent PA conducted in the preceding 12 months and declare that they have been completing annual PA for each full year that revalidation has been running.

## Revalidation update

At its July meeting, UKPHR's Board announced that its revalidation scheme, in relation to public health specialists, will start on 01 April 2019. The first 6-month advance notices of all specialists' revalidation due dates will be sent on 01 October 2018. The requirement for annual professional appraisal also begins from 01 April 2019 (it is important to note that this requirement is not retrospective).

Chair of the Board, Andrew Jones says:

"UKPHR is introducing revalidation for specialist registrants. This is a **major step forward for UKPHR and its registrants**, marking a new stage in the register's development and the assurance of ongoing competence and quality of service of the public health workforce.

"For public health specialists, UKPHR's revalidation scheme ensures as close an equivalence with the revalidation required of medical practitioners registered on the General Medical Council's public health specialists register as possible.

"The public, public health employers and commissioners of public health services can be confident that workers registered with UKPHR are regularly checked and they and UKPHR are committed to continuous improvement."

UKPHR's Board has made one significant change to the revalidation requirements as they apply to registered public health practitioners. It was apparent that currently the public health system in the UK lacks the necessary infrastructure to deliver a professional appraisal for all practitioners. The Board has therefore decided to **delay introduction of revalidation for practitioner registrants** and to form a working party to consider the arrangements for professional appraisal for practitioners. For public health practitioners, UKPHR's revalidation scheme will in due course position them at the forefront of work to maintain and raise standards of practice in the health and social care sector.

### SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSIONAL APPRAISAL

The requirement of an annual professional appraisal (PA) by all specialist registrants is **not** retrospective.

Therefore, from the launch of revalidation (1<sup>st</sup> April 2019) all UKPHR specialist registrants must be taking part in an annual PA.

For example, all UKPHR registrants must have completed their first PA between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

## Review of Practitioner Registration

In 2016, UKPHR set up a task & finish group to review all aspects of practitioner registration. This was the first full review of practitioner registration since it was brought into operation five years earlier. The task & finish group finalised its report and its recommendations to UKPHR on 07 June 2018. The report and recommendations were considered by UKPHR's Education & Training Committee in 25 June 2018 and by UKPHR's Board on 03 July 2018.

UKPHR accepted in full the recommendations of the task & finish group.

The task & finish group made **recommendations in three thematic areas: standards, processes and value**. Some, mostly relating to the second and third of these themes can be implemented by UKPHR quite straightforwardly and work on these will start soon. Others require more work by UKPHR before they are capable of implementation and some others need to be consulted upon before they are ready for implementation.

We have commenced a **consultation on the draft amended standards** this summer.

We would be very grateful for your views in response to our consultation.

Our consultation closes on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 10am**.

Please visit our website via the link below to view the draft amended standards and to complete our online survey or alternatively complete a paper version.

<https://www.ukphr.org/amended-standards-for-practitioner-registration/>



Are you a UKPHR registrant?

If yes, login to [www.ukphr.org](http://www.ukphr.org) and update your contact details at any time!  
Contact us at [register@ukphr.org](mailto:register@ukphr.org) if you are unable to access this area

## Annual Meeting & Open Day

We are changing the format of our Annual Meeting this year (**27<sup>th</sup> September**) and will be holding it here at the UKPHR offices in Birmingham to include an Open Day. [Click here](#) for the programme.

As part of the Open Day we are offering you the opportunities to have **1:1 meeting with Board members** in ten-minute meeting slots, to talk to our office staff and to listen to presentations about our work and major projects. All this in addition to attending the Annual Meeting itself and hearing our Chair's address to the audience. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.



If you would like to attend the Open Day we ask you please to book your tickets on [Eventbrite](https://ukphragmandopen.day.eventbrite.co.uk) <https://ukphragmandopen.day.eventbrite.co.uk> To book a 1:1 meeting, please email [register@ukphr.org](mailto:register@ukphr.org)

Profile: Helen Jeffries,  
UKPHR's latest office recruit

**Helen, you started work with UKPHR in March, how are you finding the work?**

*It's great. Everyone I work with, and the registrants I interact with, are all so nice and enthusiastic.*

**Your work with UKPHR, a small organisation, must be very different from your previous job at Health Education West Midlands?**

*Yes, I was a Business and Project Support Officer there, and as such I was a member of a very large team. I loved the constant buzz of activity around the office.*

**Is there anything you miss from Health Education West Midlands?**

*Two computer screens in front of me to allow me to move quickly from one task to another.*

**So how does your work at UKPHR compare?**

*Well, the workforce is a small team of four, working in an open office, and I like how we four co-operate and share information about our work. My work as the Registration Support Officer is tremendously varied and I welcome the challenge of having to learn and do new things at work.*

**What's good about UKPHR's office?**

*We are on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of an office block in the centre of Birmingham and we have great views across the City. I am a bit of a fitness fiend and I walk up 18 flights of stairs to our office – and the gym I attend is right next door to our office block!*