

Professional bodies and the Standards of Proficiency review

Introduction

We established the Standards of Proficiency for the 12 original professions that we regulate in 2003. We said that we would not change these standards during the transitional arrangements for registration (the 'grandparenting' period), but that we **would** review them in the future.

The Council is now reviewing the standards. To do this, it has established a Professional Liaison Group (PLG). This group will consider evidence from a variety of individuals and stakeholders with knowledge of how the standards are working, how well they relate to registrants' practice, and whether they need to be amended.

This is why we are writing to professional bodies for the original 12 professions, to ask for your ideas on whether or how the standards should be amended.

About the standards

We have set the Standards of Proficiency in order to determine the minimum professional knowledge, understanding and skills that are necessary in order to register with us.

The standards of proficiency we set are the minimum threshold standards for entry to register and the minimum standards which HPC registrants must continue to meet throughout their professional life.

We recognise that most registrants and education providers will exceed these standards. We also recognise that the standards sit along side other professional guidance which may be aimed at promoting best practice.

What we would like to know from you

When you are putting together your answer, the more information you can give us about why you have this opinion about the standards, the more helpful this will be. Because the Standards of Proficiency are so central to how the HPC and the Register work, the PLG will be looking for strong evidence in order to assure itself that a change is necessary. For example, if you feel that an area of your profession is missing from the Standards of Proficiency, and an additional standard is needed, it would be helpful if this could be supplemented with information on whether approved programmes cover this area, whether this reflects a recent change in your profession, and any further supporting information you can give us.

Please feel free to put together your answers to these questions in the way that you feel is best for your profession, and most convenient to your organisation. If you have put together a group to consider the standards, or if you have asked your members, please give us brief information about this in answer to question 4 - this will be very helpful to the PLG in considering your input.

If there is additional information that you would like to give us, please do attach this to your responses, or send it in separately.

What happens next

The PLG will look at the responses we receive from professional bodies, and will also consider other pieces of evidence about how the standards work, and will draw upon all of this information in making its recommendations to the Council.

If the standards need to be amended, this will be the subject of a consultation.

During the consultation your organisation would also have the opportunity to respond to any proposals, and we would welcome your input at this stage of the process, as well.

We are very grateful for your help with this important review.

Section 2. The standards

2.1 Do any of the generic or detailed generic standards not apply to a specific profession and therefore need removing?

2.2 Do any of the generic or detailed generic standards need further detail adding to them?

2.3 Are each of the profession-specific standards sufficiently detailed and clear? (i.e. are there profession specific standards in all cases where there is a specific need?)