

HPC review of aspirant occupations seeking regulation

During the week commencing 5th May two applications were received from the Psychologists and the Clinical Perfusionists.

This was the first time that two applications had been received by the HPC. I reached a conclusion that the Executive did not have enough time to review the two submissions, discuss points of clarification with the applicants and draft Council papers. In addition, it was believed that the Council agenda for the 4th June meeting would be too long and that there may not be enough time to receive a presentation from both applicants and consider their applications.

I therefore decided that the first application received by the HPC, which was from the Psychologists, should be presented at the 4th June Council meeting. The application from the Clinical Perfusionists would be tabled at the Council meeting on 17th September.

It should be noted that the process to commence the regulation of a new profession is a two stage process. Firstly, the HPC needs to consider the application. Secondly, the Department of Health needs to undertake a public consultation process and amend the Health Profession Order 2001.

Therefore the 15 week delay in considering the application from the Clinical Perfusionists will have no impact on the date that they could be regulated.

The Council is requested to approve a policy that only one application from an aspirant occupation is considered per Council meeting. The only exception would be where there is a considerable degree of similarities between two or more applications.