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1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014

# Fitness to practise – key information 2014



# Executive summary

Welcome to the summary of key information about the Health and Care Professions Council's (HCPC's) work in considering allegations about the fitness to practise of our registrants. This summary includes key statistics relating to our cases and information about how our fitness to practise panels have dealt with the cases before them. This key information document covers the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

Our fitness to practise process is designed to protect the public from those professionals on our Register who are not fit to practise. If a professional's fitness to practise is 'impaired', it means that there are concerns about their ability to practise safely and effectively. That may mean that they should not practice at all, or that they should be limited in what they are allowed to do. Our processes do not mean that we will pursue every isolated or minor mistake, but if a professional is found to fall below our standards, we will take action to protect the public.

Since 2008–09, the number of registrants on our Register has increased by 74 per cent (from 185,554 in 2008–09 to 322,021 in 2013–14) and the number of allegations that we have received has increased by 328 per cent (2,069 in 2013–14, versus 483 in 2008–09). It is important to note however, during 2013–14 only 0.65 per cent of registrants had an allegation made against them, and only 0.06 per cent of registrants were subject to a sanction imposed at a final hearing.

Ensuring our processes are aligned with the principles of restorative and rehabilitative justice remains core to the HCPC's fitness to practise proceedings. Along with ensuring openness, fairness and transparency in our fitness to practise proceedings, this continues to be central to our approach in 2014–15.

I hope you find this document of interest. Further information can be found in our Fitness to Practise Annual Report 2014, which is available on our website at [www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/reports](http://www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/reports)

If you have any feedback or comments, please email me at [ftponcaserelated@hcpc-uk.org](mailto:ftponcaserelated@hcpc-uk.org)

**Kelly Holder**  
**Director of Fitness to Practise**

# Cases received in 2013–14

## Total number of cases received

Year	Number of cases	Total number of registrants	% of registrants subject to complaints
2013–14	2,069	322,021	0.64

## Who raised concerns in 2013–14?

Who raised a concern	Number	%
Article 22(6) / anon	77	3.7
Employer	593	28.7
Other	81	3.9
Other registrant / professional	78	3.8
Professional body	14	0.7
Police	37	1.8
Public	793	38.3
Self referral	396	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>100</b>

There was an increase of 25 per cent in the number of cases the HCPC dealt with in 2013–14, compared to 2012–13.

The number of registrants has increased by four per cent compared to last year. 2013–14 was the first full year of registration of social workers in England, after the transfer from the General Social Care Council on 1 August 2012.

There has been a continuing trend in the increase of the total number of registrants who had a fitness to practise concern raised about them. In 2013–14, 0.65 per cent of registrants had a complaint made about them. Last year, there were 0.52 per cent, and in 2011–12 there were 0.42 per cent.

In 2013–14, members of the public remained the largest complainant group. This year, members of the public made 38 per cent of the complaints about registrants. In 2012–13, the proportion was also 38 per cent.

When a case does not meet our Standard of acceptance for allegations, the case is closed. You can find out more about our Standard of acceptance on our website at [www.hcpc-uk.org/publications](http://www.hcpc-uk.org/publications)

In 2013–14, 1,024 cases were closed without being considered by a panel of the HCPC's Investigating Committee. In 2012–13, 737 cases were closed at this stage.

# Decisions by Investigating Committee panels

In 2013–14, panels of the Investigating Committee made decisions in 707 cases. Twenty five of these cases required further information. The remainder are set out in the table below. The case to answer rate for cases considered by the Investigating Committee is 53 per cent. In 2012–13, the case to answer rate was 58 per cent.

In 2013–14, 307 fitness to practise concerns received from employers were heard by an Investigating Committee Panel (ICP). Of these, 32 per cent received a ‘case to answer’ decision.

In 2013–14, 16 per cent of the cases considered by an ICP were received from members of the public. However, only 16 per cent of fitness to practise concerns received from members of the public resulted in a case to answer decision at ICP. In 2012–13, the case to answer rate for this group was 18.5 per cent.

## Case to answer by complainant

Complainant	Number of case to answer	Number of no case to answer	Total	% case to answer
Article 22(6) / anon	14	8	22	63.6
Employer	210	97	307	68.4
Other	14	3	17	82.4
Other registrant / professional	5	11	16	31.3
Police	14	7	21	66.7
Professional body	8	1	9	88.9
Public	20	108	128	15.6
Self referral	75	87	162	46.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>52.8</b>

# Final hearings

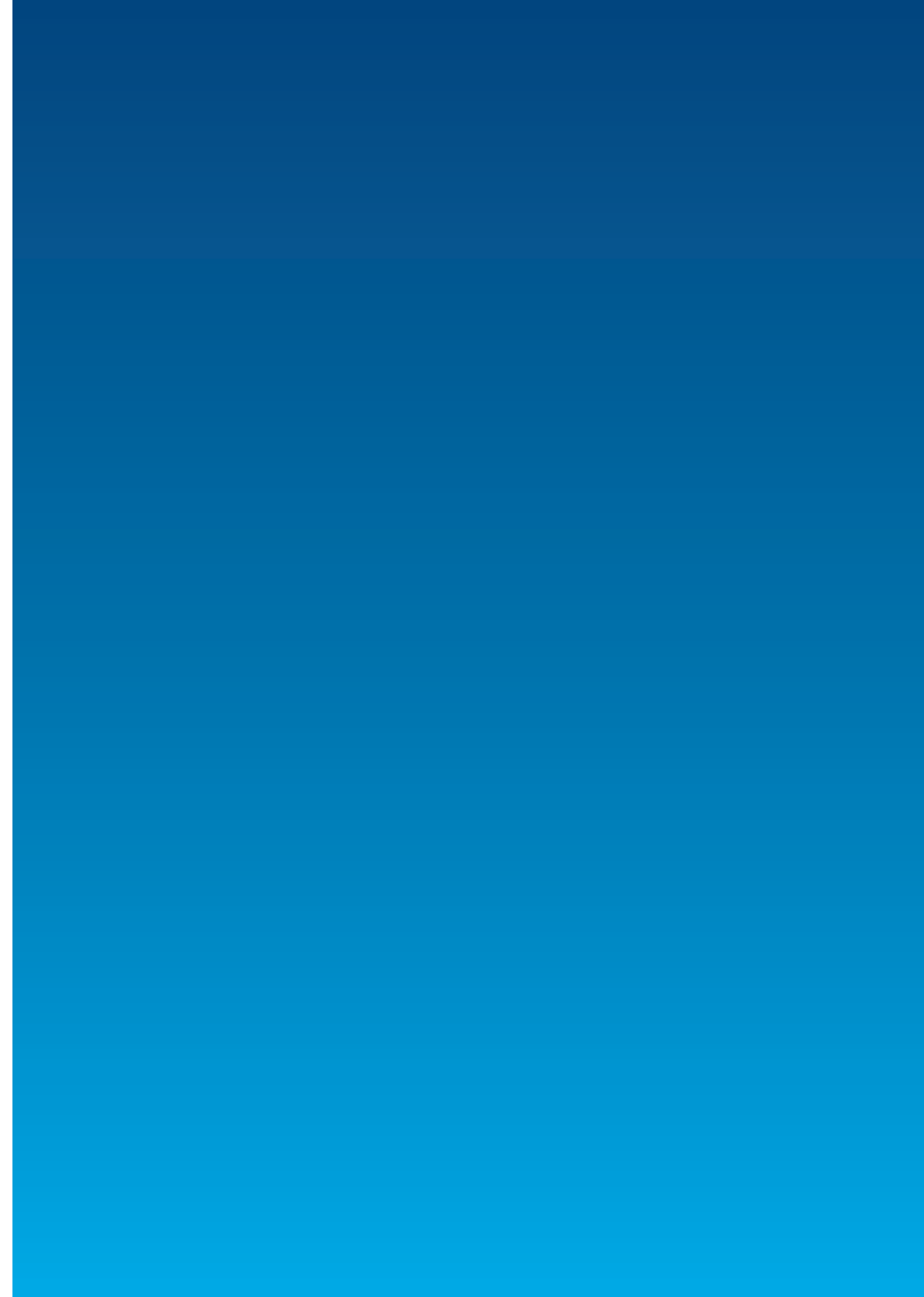
Two hundred and sixty seven cases were concluded in 2013–14, involving 265 registrants.

Hearings where allegations were well founded concerned only 0.06 per cent of registrants on the HCPC Register. In 2012–13, this was 0.07 per cent.

Decisions from all public hearings where fitness to practise is considered to be impaired are published on our website at [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org). Details of cases that are considered to be not well founded are not published on the HCPC website unless specifically requested by the registrant concerned.

## Outcome by type of committee

Committee	<i>Amended</i>	<i>Caution</i>	<i>Conditions of practice</i>	<i>No further action</i>	<i>Not well founded</i>	<i>Removed (incorrect / fraudulent entry)</i>	<i>Struck off</i>	<i>Suspension</i>	<i>Voluntary removal</i>	<i>Total</i>
Conduct and Competence Committee	0	36	25	5	67	0	52	50	19	254
Health Committee	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	7	1	12
Investigating Committee (fraudulent and incorrect entry)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>267</b>



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