



# Registration Annual Report

2021



# Contents

The Register.....3  
New registrations during 2021 .....7  
Trends in initial registration..... 10  
Retentions ..... 11  
Other registrations work ..... 13

## Report on the 2021 registration year

This report provides an overview of registration activity in the General Chiropractic Council between 1 January to 31 December 2021.

### The Register

The Register of Chiropractors opened in 1999 with over 5,370 chiropractors registering since then.

As of 31 December 2021, there were **3,433** chiropractors on the GCC Register: **3,186** paying the practising fee; **247** the reduced (non-practising) fee.

**Table 1** – Summary of registration activity in 2020

#### Entrants on the Register

Total number of entrants to the Register	<b>249</b>
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*of which*

First time applications	<b>208</b>
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Restorations to the Register	<b>41</b>
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#### Removals from the Register

Total number of removals	<b>160</b>
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of which, those were removed for

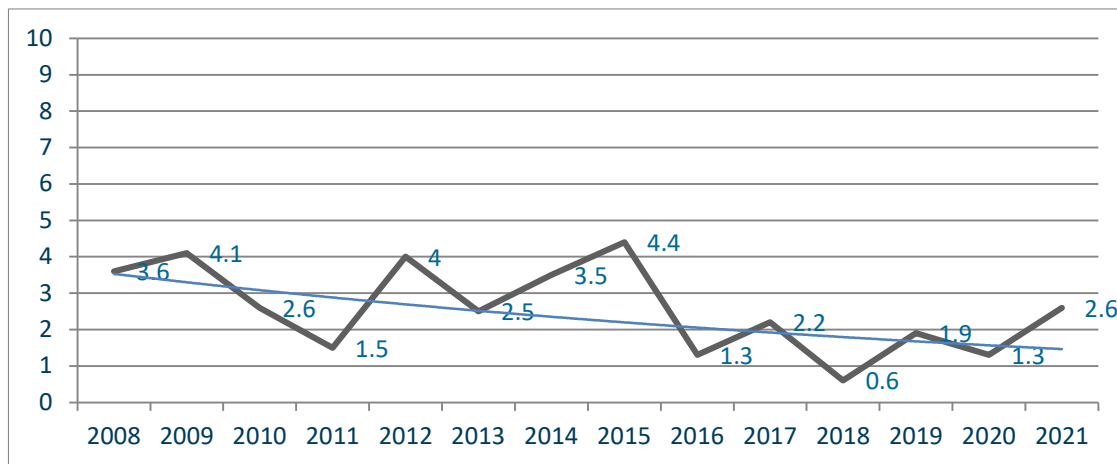
Non-compliance with CPD	<b>75</b>
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Not retaining on the Register	<b>67</b>
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Voluntary removal	<b>15</b>
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Deceased	<b>3</b>
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**Chart 1** - Percentage year on year growth in registrant numbers since 2008



The Register increased modestly by 90 registrants during 2021, doubling the 2020 figure. The increase can largely be accounted for by higher numbers of graduates from approved UK chiropractic programmes.

New programmes of chiropractic education have started in the last few years with more planned and current programmes expanding. We are beginning to see that increase come through in the way of higher registration figures. A further rate of growth is expected over the next few years. Tables 12 and 13 provide further information on projections.

### Profile of registrants on the Register

As part of its application processes, including retention on the register, the GCC asks applicants/ registrants to provide information about protected characteristics. In terms of the completeness of information held, ethnicity and diversity data is held on approximately 99% of registrants.

Applicants for retention on the register, also an online process, are now required to provide a response against each of the protected characteristics as from 2021, with a prefer not to say option for those not wishing to provide a response.

The GCC has 100% data on sex of registrants, which shows an even balance, with women making up 50.2% of the Register population and men 49.8% this trend has continued since 2017.

**Table 2** - Register population by age range

Age range	Percentage
16-24	2.0
25-34	25.1
35-44	27.7
45-54	23.9
55-64	16.3
65+	5.0

Around three quarters of registrants are between 25 and 54, and one-fifth over 55.

### Ethnicity

Applicants and registrants are asked to choose the option that best represents their ethnic group.

**Table 3** – Register population by ethnic group

Ethnicity	Percentage
Arab	0.2
Asian – Bangladeshi	0.1
Asian - Indian	2.6
Asian – Pakistani	0.5
Asian - Other	1.3
Black – African	0.3
Black – Caribbean	0.3
Black – Other	0.1
Chinese	2.0
Mixed Ethnicity – Asian and White	0.9
Mixed Ethnicity – Black African & White	0.2
Mixed Ethnicity – Black Caribbean & White	0.3
Mixed – Other	1.0
White	60.0
White – Irish	1.8
White – Other	18.6
Other Ethnic background	0.4
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>No data</b>	<b>0.4</b>

### Disability

Applicants and registrants are asked if they identify as disabled.

**Table 4** – percentage of the register population identifying as disabled

Identify as disabled	Percentage
Yes	0.7
No	93.3
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>No data</b>	<b>0.1</b>

### Religion/ beliefs

Applicants are asked to choose the option that best represents their religion or beliefs

**Table 5** – percentage of register population by religion/ belief

Religion/ belief	Percentage
Buddhist	1.6
Christian	37.2
Hindu	1.1
Jewish	0.7
Muslim	1.3
Sikh	1.0
None	36.8
Other	3.6
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>16.5</b>
<b>No data</b>	<b>0.2</b>

### Sexual orientation

Applicants and registrants are asked to choose the option that best represents their sexual orientation.

**Table 6** – percentage of register population by sexual orientation

Sexual orientation	Percentage
Bisexual	0.7
Heterosexual	81.6
Gay man	1.4
Gay woman	1.0
<b>Prefer not to say</b>	<b>15.0</b>
<b>No data</b>	<b>0.2</b>

### Gender identity

Applicants and registrants are asked if their gender identity matches the sex that they were assigned at birth. Due to the small numbers involved we are not publishing this information.

## New registrants during 2021

### An overview of new registrants

In aggregate 208 new registrants joined the Register in 2021, 43 more than in 2020.

**Table 7** - Number of new registrants by month since 2013

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2021	14	8	8	3	8	0	40	36	46	12	22	11	208
2020	22	14	8	2	1	3	38	34	11	8	18	6	165
2019	14	12	7	8	4	6	36	33	16	9	9	6	160
2018	10	11	9	3	3	5	25	44	13	4	14	7	148
2017	13	8	8	6	4	3	47	47	31	4	13	11	195
2016	7	11	8	6	2	5	46	33	17	7	23	1	166
2015	20	18	6	9	5	4	34	30	24	7	23	7	187
2014	19	11	4	12	4	4	36	42	21	5	13	8	179
2013	20	11	4	7	6	4	32	39	19	6	5	3	156

The ethnicity and gender profile of new registrants joining the Register is consistent with the profile of registrants generally. Detailed information is not published due to the small numbers for some categories.

**Table 8** - 2021 new registrants by registration route

Registration route	Total new registrants
UK approved course	183
International route	20
EU General Directive	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>

The route to registration via the EU General Directive ceased to have effect from 11pm on 31 December 2020. However, the GCC was permitted to review applications received before that date and, where applicants met registration requirements, admit them to the register. On this basis a further five chiropractors registered through this route during 2021.

## Routes to registration

The route an applicant takes to registration depends primarily on their chiropractic qualification. Nationality is also taken into consideration where European law applies. There are four routes to registration:

1. Holding a chiropractic qualification recognised by the GCC after successful completion of an approved chiropractic programme
2. Holding an unrecognised chiropractic qualification and passing the GCC's Test of Competence

3. Via EU General Directive 2005/36/EC and applying to establish in the UK. The GCC was able to accept applications via this route up to 11pm on 31 December 2020.
4. Via EU General Directive 2005/36/EC and applying to work in the UK on a temporary and occasional basis. The GCC was able to accept applications via this route up to 11pm on 31 December 2020.

## Applicants holding UK recognised qualifications

**Table 9** - the number of graduates from approved courses registered before 1 March 2021

Educational institution	Month course completed	Number of graduates	Number registered	% of those graduates registering
McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC)	October/ December 2020 <sup>1</sup>	28	28	100%
AECC University College	June/ July 2021	121	83	68%
University of South Wales (WIOC)	June/ July 2021	86	62	72%
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>235</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>74%</b>

**Table 10** - Percentage of graduates from educational institutions registering since 2016

Educational institution	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC)	91%	88%	93%	78%	92%	100%
AECC University College	36%	63%	51%	43%	44%	68%
University of South Wales (WIOC)	68%	68%	79%	69%	67%	72%

The number of graduates registering in 2021 was higher than in previous years, with a marked increase in graduate numbers from the University of South Wales and a 24% increase in the percentage of AECC University College graduates registering for the first time. Additionally, increases in those registering was also observed from MCC.

## Applicants holding relevant international chiropractic qualifications (International)

Applicants with chiropractic qualifications achieved from outside the UK must pass the GCC Test of Competence to be eligible for registration. The Test ensures applicants without a recognised qualification meet the same standards as those who do.

This section relates to those who have passed the Test of Competence and subsequently registered.

<sup>1</sup> Graduates from the McTimoney College of Chiropractic 2020 cohorts are included as they first register during the 2021 registration year.



**Table 11** - New International applicants registered during 2021 (by educational institution)

Educational institution	Country	Number of registrants
Barcelona College of Chiropractic	Spain	1
Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College	Canada	2
Durban University of Technology	South Africa	7
Life-West Chiropractic College	USA	1
Logan College of Chiropractic	USA	1
New York Chiropractic College	USA	1
Palmer College of Chiropractic	USA	2
Real Centro Universitario	Spain	2
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Australia	1
University of Johannesburg	South Africa	2
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>20</b>

A smaller number of additional chiropractors registered through the international route in 2021 than 2022 (17). International travel was again disrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which may have added pressure on chiropractors considering moving country. Additionally, there can be a lag of several months between candidates passing the Test of Competence and subsequently registering for the first time and so the increase in numbers taking the TOC during 2021 will take time to filter through to the register.

### Applicants applying under European Union (EU) General Directive 2005/36/EC

The GCC registered five applicants through the EU General Directive in 2020, matching that of 2019. Applicants were trained at various colleges both in the EU and outside of it.

The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU means that this route to registration ceased to have effect from 11pm on 31 December 2020 although the GCC was permitted to review applications received prior to the deadline as part of the transitional period. In December 2020, six applications were received through this route. Given the registration process includes a review of the applicants' chiropractic education and skills, registration could not be concluded during 2020.

EU nationals are now able to apply for registration with the GCC following the international registration route and therefore must firstly pass the Test of Competence.

### Temporary and occasional registration

The GCC did not receive or grant registration to any applicants for temporary and occasional registration during 2020 requiring processing during 2021.

## Trends in initial registration

This section indicates the potential number of graduates who may apply for GCC registration over the next five years. The focus is on graduates from the UK colleges offering approved courses, which make up the largest proportion of new registrants each year.

The attrition rate of students is not included as the numbers dropping out of programmes are small and is also consistent with past trends.

**Table 12** - Potential graduates with recognised qualifications for the next five years

Educational institution	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
AECC University College	152	194	194	205	199
University of South Wales	74	125	110	110	110
McTimoney College of Chiropractic	49	36	52	60	60
London South Bank University	14	15	20	35	40
Teesside University	0	0	13	30	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>439</b>

**Table 13** - Projected registration figures for the next five years

Route	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
UK graduates <sup>2</sup>	173	222	233	264	263
International Qualified <sup>3</sup>	19	19	19	19	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>282</b>

The start of a gradual and annual increase in graduate numbers began in 2021 and will continue for the next five years, this is likely to lead to greater numbers of initial registrations annually.

<sup>2</sup> These figures have been calculated based on a registration rate of 60% for UK graduates, which is the average percentage of UK graduates registering over the past five years.

<sup>3</sup> These figures have been calculated based on average number of registrants over the past five years.

## Retention

### Summary

By the end of 2020, 249 registrants paid the reduced fee, providing assurance they do not intend to practise in the UK in 2021.

It was speculated that due to the pandemic more registrants would apply for registration on a reduced fee basis as they were not intending to practise. However, while the figure is higher than previous years it is not significantly higher and likely that a number of those registrants will apply to transfer to practising registration as 2021 progresses and restrictions resulting from the pandemic are removed.

### 'Removals' from the Register

Registration depends on compliance with all registration requirements and failure to comply may lead to removal from the Register. Reasons for removal from the Register include:

- Failure to remain fit to practise (erasure from the Register)
- Failure to retain on the Register (lapse)
- Voluntary removal
- Death of a registrant
- Failure to complete annual Continual Professional Development (CPD) requirements (CPD non-compliance)

**Table 14** - Removal from the Register annually, by reason

	Erasure	Lapse	Voluntary	Deceased	CPD non compliance	Total
2021	0	67	15	3	75	160
2020	0	67	18	1	76	162
2019	0	107	13	2	0	122
2018	1	71	28	4	47	151
2017	1	83	14	4	55	157
2016	1	80	21	4	39	145
2015	1	44	21	2	25	93
2014	3	39	21	2	42	107

The number of removals during 2021 was largely in line with 2020. It is likely that we are still seeing the impact of the pandemic on those on the verge of retirement deciding to make that change, as well as those who have preferred not to work during the period as they are voluntarily isolating.

As the register increases in size it is to be expected that the proportion coming off the register will be of a similar proportion.

Removals relating to non-compliance in relation to CPD have remained high. A mechanism exists for a waiver in relation to CPD requirements for registrants with exceptional

circumstances. As such, it is likely that (as with retirement) registrants took the decision to stop practising because of the pandemic.

Additionally, we are not clear on the economic impact of the pandemic on chiropractors, while many have remained working to capacity, potentially others have not and this may have played a part in a decision not to remain registered.

### Reasons for no longer remaining on the Register

Most registrants do not provide their reasons for leaving the Register, and these figures are therefore collated from applications for voluntary removal, email correspondence and last known addresses. The main reasons are:

- Relocation overseas
- No longer practising as a chiropractor
- Retired
- Sabbatical
- Re-training, for example as a GP
- Full time caring responsibilities
- Maternity/child-care

## Other registrations work

2021 was a busy year for registrations, highlights include:

### A review of reflective statements submitted as part of the 2020/ 21 CPD summary

A 10% sampling of registrants CPD summaries was undertaken in September 2021 focusing on the reflective statements registrants completed for their primary learning activity.

The Royal College of Chiropractors conducted the audit and found that around 91% provided appropriate responses to the reflective questions. All those needing to provide clarification did so and met the requirements.

### Online applications and digital developments

The GCC moved forward with changes to its website and portal that registrants use to self-service their registration; these included changes to the CPD summary to allow for additional questions for the 2021/ 22 CPD year for registrants to answer around their communication skills following self-reflection.

Additionally, ethnicity and diversity questions were added to the retention application to increase the number of responses, as reflected from page 4 of this report on the profile of registrants.

### Test of Competence

The Test of Competence continued to be conducted via videoconferencing with 14 panels interviewing 34 candidates across the year.

A further recruitment drive took place to increase the number of Test of Competence Assessors/ Chairs to ensure no issues occur as the first cohort of assessors/ chairs reach the end of their terms in October 2022.

Further details are provided annually in the TOC External Examiner's report, published in April 2022.

### Survey of Retention Process

Following from the annual retention process for 2022, which occurred in the last few months of 2021, a registrant research survey was conducted to understand how registrants found the process and where issues occurred so that improvements can be made ahead of the next retention period.