



General
Chiropractic
Council

The GCC Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to *The GCC Newsletter*. You voted on the new name – and this was the popular choice by some margin. It is certainly descriptive! The second-most popular choice has been selected as the name for my opening column each month - *The Spinal Column*.

We didn't issue a newsletter in March because we wanted to bring the publication date to the start of the month – so expect to see it on the first Wednesday of the month in future.

Thank you for the feedback since the last newsletter. We received several comments on how we can support the growth of registrants coming through to meet demand. We have a commitment to develop the profession, and look forward to working with the associations, the College, registrants and other stakeholders to do so.

Nick Jones, Chief Executive and Registrar

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March Council meeting

March saw the Council meet over two days. The first day focused on training and included a seminar led by Anna Van De Gaag, an expert on regulation, which provided the Council with an opportunity to consider the wider regulatory context in which it carries out its work.

The day also featured feedback to the Council from the Education Committee about its work, including the landscape of higher education regulation of which the GCC is a part. The second day was the Council meeting. This was a public meeting and it was good to see colleagues representing the profession and other stakeholders present.

[More information - Council meetings](#)



In March we attended [EPIC](#) – the World Federation of Chiropractic and European Chiropractic Union conference in Berlin.

Our Chief Executive and Registrar attended the International Chiropractic Regulatory Society annual meeting, which brings together the regulators and accrediting bodies from across the world, to share issues, learning and best practice.

It's clear that many of the issues and challenges facing the chiropractic profession here and in Europe are also experienced around the world – more similarities than differences.

Touch

With the General Osteopathic Council and the General Chiropractic Council we have published *How is touch communicated in the context of manual therapy?* a literature review, commissioned by the University of Huddersfield. An executive summary is available [here](#). Thank you to those of you who attended workshops in Huddersfield and London last week to develop next steps – because the literature is limited we wanted to hear from professionals involved. It was great to see the Associations and the College represented.

The review was commissioned because, although patients report very

high levels of satisfaction in osteopathic and chiropractic care, patients reported concerns in the areas of consent and communication and boundaries transgressions, which are higher than they should be (although reducing). The write-up of the workshops will be shared, with a view to supporting patients and practitioners in this critical area. Watch this space.

Annual report on fitness to practice

We have just published our annual report on fitness to practice for 2018.

This includes a breakdown of the types of complaints that we receive about chiropractors. The most common complaints relate to substandard treatment, most notably concerns about inappropriate or excessive treatment. Other allegations we receive regularly include rough treatment causing injury, concerns about techniques and failures to follow up or review the patient. Often a single complaint contains allegations about both clinical care and communication or consent issues.

Remember! Good communication with patients and adequately explaining treatment methods may avoid complaints being made about you.

Some other key points from the report:

- There were fewer complaints received about chiropractors in 2018 than in 2017
- There was a reduction in the volume of cases referred for a hearing
- Cases were closed more quickly in 2018 than in previous years

[Read the full report here](#)

Annual report on registration

The annual report covering registration activity for 2018 was agreed for publication by the meeting of the General Council on 26 March and has been published on our website.

The report contains details of the new registrations – including how registrations in 2018 compared with previous years and the various routes to registration – as well as information on removals from the register and additional data relating to the GCC's registration function.

[Read the full report here](#)

Advertising cases

We continue to progress the complaints received from a single complainant about advertising standards. 253 cases have now been closed by the Investigating Committee and there are 40 cases still to be considered.

We are committed to providing the profession with lessons learned from these cases and will do so in the coming months, when all cases have been concluded.

Twitter

We have reinvigorated our Twitter activity, as we see it as a good way to keep you up to date with developments at the GCC – to complement the newsletter. Please do follow us [@UK_GCC](#) – we want to increase our following!

Click the icon below to visit our profile.



Your input – GCC website

Later this year we will be launching our new website.

We're at the beginning of this process and we want your help - your feedback and insights will help us produce a new website that's easy-to-use, engaging and fit for purpose. We want to create a virtual user group to test out our ideas and designs with. If you would be interested in taking part, please email us at enquiries@gcc-uk.org.

Your new online portal

Alongside the website, we will launch a new online portal for chiropractors.

This will improve how you manage your registration, your personal details and your CPD submissions.

The new portal will involve migrating from the old system to a new and improved system. More details will follow in the coming months.



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