

**General
Chiropractic
Council**



Annual registration report 2013

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Report on the 2013 registration year

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Registrations section during 2013, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013.

New registrants

Those applying for registration have three routes through which they may apply. These are:

1. By virtue of holding a qualification recognised for the purposes of registration by the GCC. Currently the GCC has only been asked to accredit chiropractic courses within the UK and therefore this route applies to graduates of the three UK colleges (Anglo-European College of Chiropractic (AECC), McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC) and the University of South Wales¹).
2. By holding a relevant chiropractic qualification achieved outside the UK and meeting the standard of proficiency by passing the test of competence
3. Through EU General Directive 2005/35/EC. This route would include having a chiropractic qualification and having worked in an EEA member state for a set period of time.

All routes to registration

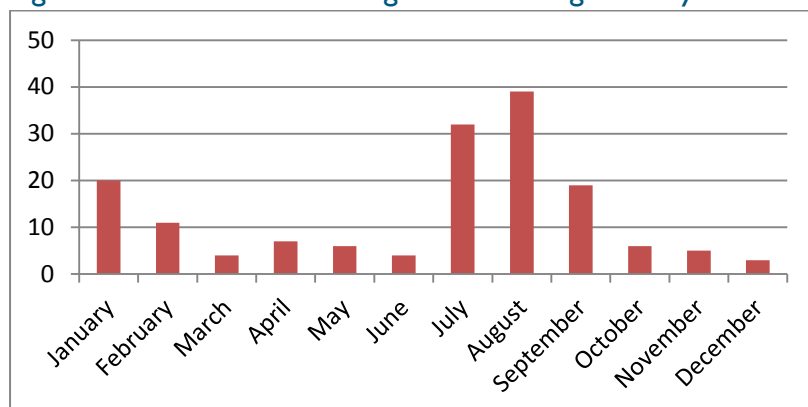
In total the number of applicants who joined the Register during the 2013 registration year was 156, these were split during 2013 as follows:

Table 1 – number of new registrants during 2013 by month

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
20	11	4	7	6	4	32	39	19	6	5	3

For simplicity the following spreadsheet shows the increase in workload through the year

Figure 1 – number of new registrants during 2013 by month



¹ The University of South Wales changed its name during 2013 from the University of Glamorgan, but is referred to throughout this document as the University of South Wales.

What this tells us

This shows an initial influx of applications in January followed by another influx during the later part of June through to September. This is consistent with previous years and the peaks show the periods when graduates of the three UK educational providers of chiropractic education complete their courses and apply for registration. These figures can be further considered split between the different routes to GCC registration.

Applicants holding a UK recognised qualification

This was by far the largest of the groups, comprising 135 chiropractors, making up 86.5% of total new registrations for the year. New registrants in this category were made up of graduates from both 2012 and 2013 cohorts.

The breakdown below gives the numbers of 2013 graduates who have gained registration by institution up to March 2014.

Table 2 – new registrants during 2013 by institution

Educational institution	Completion of course	Applications received	No of grads	No registered	% of grads reg
McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC)	December	January and February	22	19	86.4
Anglo-European College of Chiropractic (AECC)	Late June	July to September	140	60	43.0
University of South Wales	July	July to September	48	44	91.7
Total	-	-	210	123	58.6

What this tells us

Approximately 90% of graduates from MCC and the University of South Wales combined have applied and been registered within the 9 months since graduation (up to March 2014). However, the percentage of all 2013 graduates of the three colleges falls to 58.6% when AECC are taken into account. This is because only 43% of AECC graduates have applied and gained registration. It's also worth mentioning at this point that there have been no refusals by the Registrar to grant registration since the 2013 cohort graduated.

Although we do not have information on those 57% of AECC graduates who do not register with the GCC, we are aware that the majority were not UK nationals and its likely that they returned to their home country to practice.

Applicants holding a relevant foreign chiropractic qualification

Those applicants who hold a qualification achieved outside the UK, and who do not have EU community rights to practise in the UK, may still gain registration. However, to show they meet the GCC standard of proficiency they must pass a test of competence. Once they have passed the test, then they are eligible for registration. The purpose of the test is for those candidates with foreign qualifications to show that they meet the same standards as

those graduating with chiropractic qualifications accredited for the purposes of registration by the GCC.

The number of those applicants with qualifications achieved outside the UK and who were required to pass the test of competence before being granted registration was again small, 13 new registrants in total.

Those registered achieved their qualifications from the following chiropractic educational institutions:

Table 3 – new foreign qualified registrants by educational institution

Educational institution	Country	Number of registrants	Year of graduation
Canadian Memorial College of Chiropractic	Canada	1	2007
Parker College of Chiropractic	USA	1	2011
MacQuarie University	Australia	7	2012/3
Quebec	Canada	1	1999
New York College of Chiropractic	USA	1	2012
Palmer College of Chiropractic	USA	1	2006
New Zealand College of Chiropractic	New Zealand	1	2011
TOTAL	-	13	-

What this tells us

Very simply this tells us that over half of the 13 chiropractors who registered with the GCC under the foreign qualification rules during 2013 were from Macquarie University in Australia. In addition to this those 7 were from the 2012/3 cohort of students.

For those 6 not who did not graduate from Macquarie University, 5 achieved their qualification from various colleges in North America. The remaining registrant attended New Zealand College of Chiropractic. In addition there was a range of graduation years amongst those registrants, with 3 achieving their qualification within the 5 years before registration, 2 within 10 years and 1 candidate within 15 years.

Overall those who graduated within the 5 years before registration made up 77% of the total, showing that those newer to practise are more mobile than those who have been in practise for sometime. This is expected as those recently graduating are less likely to have family commitments and find it easier take a period of time working in another country. Those who have been in practise will have been working as associates and will not be working in a practice of their own; therefore they do not have the same issues with leaving their role as someone in their own established practice would.

Test of competence

The test of competence is administered on behalf of the GCC by the University of South Wales. In 2013 four tests were scheduled, although only three tests were held as the November test date was cancelled due to lack of candidates.

Table 4 – number of tests and candidates per year since 2008

Year	Number of tests per year	Number of test attempts per year
2008	4	27
2009	3	25
2010	3	22
2011	4	22
2012	3	21
2013	3	17

What this tells us

As can be seen in the table above, the number of candidates for the test has been dropping each year since 2008. The University normally require a minimum of 6 candidates for each test, but has been flexible in allowing some tests to go ahead with fewer candidates to ensure there are not long periods between each test. However, because of the continuing drop in the number of candidates the economic case for running the test becomes difficult to justify. This means that tests can be cancelled because of lack of candidates and fewer tests are now run as a result.

Should a candidate fail one component of the test, he or she would fail the whole test and therefore not be able to progress to registration. There is no limit on the number of times a candidate may sit the test, although it's worth noting that most candidates pass at their first or second attempt.

Table 5 – breakdown of number of candidates for each 2013 test date

Test dates	Number of candidates
23 March	9
15 June	5
21 September	3
30 November (cancelled)	0 (2 candidates showed an interest)

Breakdown of the results of each test and their country of study

Table 6 – 23 March 2013 test of competence

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Macquarie University	6	5	1	0
New Zealand College of Chiropractors	2	1	1	0
University of Western States	1	0	1	0
Total	9	6	3	0

Table 7 – 15 June 2013 test of competence

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Macquarie University	2	2	0	2
Palmer College of Chiropractic	1	1	0	0
New Zealand College of Chiropractic	1	1	0	1
University of Western States	1	1	0	1
Total	5	5	0	4

Table 8 – 21 September 2013 test of competence

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Macquarie University	1	1	0	0
New Zealand College of Chiropractors	1	1	0	0
Southern California University of Health Sciences	1	0	1	0
Total	3	2	1	0

Table 9 – total of candidates for all 2013 tests

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Macquarie University	9	8	1	2
New Zealand College of Chiropractors	4	3	1	1
University of Western States	2	1	1	1
Palmer College of Chiropractic	1	1	0	0
Southern California University of Health Sciences	1	0	1	0
Total	17	13	4	4

What this tells us

There is more demand for tests at the beginning of the registration year, rather than later in the year. Looking at the institutions the candidates graduated from, we can see that the reason there is a higher demand for the test in March, is that this test attracts those who graduated from Macquarie University at the end of 2012 and early 2013. We might surmise from these figures that there is an active recruitment programme being undertaken at Macquarie University to bring chiropractors over to the UK.

Table 10 – results by test component for 2013

Component	Number of attempts	Number of failure attempts	% of failed attempts
Clinical objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)	4	1	25%
UK healthcare system	4	2	50%
X-ray OSCE	4	2	50%
Case management	4	4	100%

Table 11 – number of candidates failing components of the test in 2013

Number of failed components	Number of candidates
1	0
2	3
3	1
4	0

What this tells us

Of those failed attempts at the test, all four were failures on the case management component and all candidates failed multiple components of the test. This compares with those components failed in 2012, where again all candidates who failed did so on the case management component.

Most failures occurred in the March test, which had the highest number of candidates. Three of those candidates who failed the test during 2013 have since passed and have achieved registration.

Applicants applying under EU General Directive 2005/36/EC

The EU General Directive allows free movement of labour between EU member states. This means that those chiropractors with EU community rights, who have been practising within the EU, can apply for GCC registration.

Since the General Directive came into effect the number of applications have been tiny. However, during 2013, 8 applicants were registered through this route to registration.

In previous years this has been limited to 1 or 2 applicants and it's not clear yet whether this increase will continue in the future or whether 2013 was simply a blip.

Taking a look at the current registration status of those registrants, only 3 retained their names on the Register for 2014. Three opted for non practising registration, while two are no longer registered. Its not clear whether those now non practising or no longer on the Register only intended to practise for a short period in the UK, or whether their intention had been to stay longer.

EU community rights

The EU General Directive allows applications for registration for those who have enforceable community rights. These rights are conferred by EU Directive 2004/38/EC, which allows access to the UK labour market from:

- a national of an EEA state or Switzerland (other than the United Kingdom)
- a national of the United Kingdom who is seeking access to, or is pursuing, the profession by virtue of an enforceable community right; or
- a person who is not a national of an EEA state or Switzerland, but who can be treated no less favourably than a national of a EU state for the purposes of access to and pursuit of the profession, because he or she has an enforceable community right. This would include, for example, someone whose nationality is outside the EU, but whose spouse is an EU national.

Table 12 – nationality of registrants through the EU General Directive route

Nationality	Number of registrants
French	3
Irish	1
Greek	1
Belgian	1
Italian	1
Canadian	1

What this tells us

The data shows that three registrants were French, while the remainder came from various countries within Western Europe, with the exception of a Canadian who applied on the basis of the community rights acquired through his Greek spouse.

Qualifications

As well as satisfying EU Directive 2004/38/EC, to practise as a chiropractor in the UK, applicants must satisfy EU General Directive 2005/36/EC. This directive allows individuals to register with the GCC and refer to themselves as chiropractors, only if they meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant holds a diploma in chiropractic awarded by an EEA member state and that which is:
 - a. accepted in an EEA member state for the purposes of statutory regulation; or
 - b. awarded on completion of regulated education and training, i.e., education and training that is directly geared to the practice of chiropractic and, which in general terms, complies with section 2a below and where the level and structure of any professional training is determined by the law or administrative provisions of the state where the training takes place or it is monitored by a designated authority.
2. The applicant has practised as a chiropractor in an EEA member state for at least 2 out of the last 10 years, and can produce:
 - a. formal qualifications awarded by a competent authority in an EEA member state that:
 - i. show you have successfully completed a post-secondary course in chiropractic of at least 3 years duration in a university or an establishment of higher education or an establishment of similar level in a member state;
 - ii. show you have completed any additional professional training required; and
 - iii. has prepared you for the practice of the profession of chiropractic in that stateor
 - b. Formal qualifications awarded by a competent authority in an EEA member state upon the successful completion of education and training within the EEA, and recognised by that state as equivalent to the qualifications specified in 2(a) above (provided that notification of such recognition has been duly given to other member states in accordance with the Directive).
3. The applicant has practised as a chiropractor for at least 3 out of the last 10 years in an EEA member state; and
 - a. the practice of chiropractic is regulated in that state by a competent authority; and
 - b. has achieved a chiropractic qualification outside the EEA that is recognised for the purposes of registration by the competent authority in 3(a) above.

Table 13 – number of registrants split by EU General Directive 2005/36/EC requirement

Requirement (as above)	Number of registrants
1	2
2	1
3	5

Table 14 – new EU registrants by qualification

Qualification	Country	Number of registrants
Master of Technology (Chiropractic) (Durban)	South Africa	1
Certificate in Chiropractic (Institut Franco-Européen de Chiropraxie)	France	3
DC ² (New York)	USA	1
DC (Northwestern Health Sciences University)	USA	1
DC (National University of Health Sciences)	USA	1
DC (Cleveland Chiropractic College)	USA	1

What this tells us

The data shows that the majority of those who applied for registration held chiropractic qualifications achieved outside the EU and had practised within the EU for at least 3 out of the last 10 years. Those qualifications tended to be from the USA. This is unsurprising as there are few chiropractic educational institutions within the EU, which means that those individuals who wish to study to become chiropractors either study outside the UK, or attend a UK institution and would therefore follow a different route to registration.

Only three applicants held qualifications from within the EU, all of which were from the Institut Franco-Européen de Chiropraxie, with two having graduated within the previous 12 months.

Gender split of new and all registrants

The GCC holds gender data on all registrants, which was originally collected on the initial registration application form.

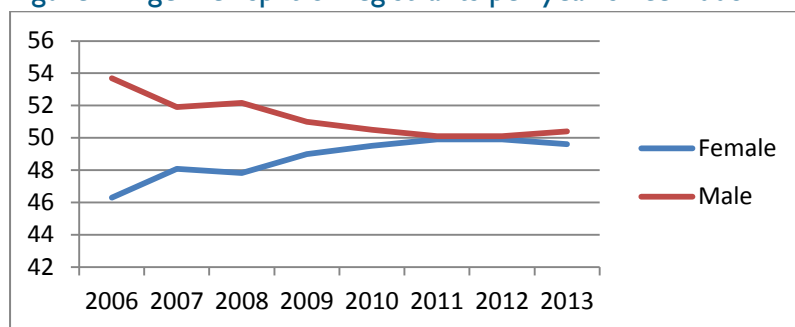
Table 15 – gender split of new registrants in total/ by route to registration and all registrants

Gender	All 2013 registrants	EU registrants	FQ registrants	UK registrants	All registrants
Female	68 (43.6%)	1 (12.5%)	9 (69.2%)	58 (43%)	1,451 (49.6%)
Male	88 (56.4%)	7 (87.5%)	4 (30.8%)	77 (57%)	1,474 (50.4%)
Total	156	8	13	135	2,925

² DC = Doctor of Chiropractic

Trends in gender of registrants

Figure 2 – gender split of registrants per year since 2008



What this tells us

There are generally more men entering the profession than women chiropractors, most notably through the EU route where only one registrant is female. The trend is reversed for those applying through as holding a foreign chiropractic qualification where 9 of the 13 were women. However, the figures for both routes to registration are small and, on their own, do not hold much meaning.

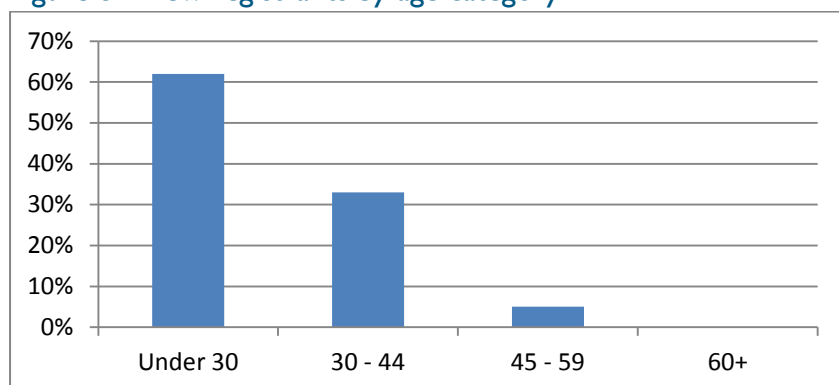
Those registrants who were registered on the basis that they hold a chiropractic qualification recognised for registration by the GCC made up the largest component of new registrants in 2013. In this category men outnumbered women, although in all there were only 19 more men registered than women.

When we look at figure 2 above, we can see that there has been a trend of an increase in the number of women on the Register, with only a slight increase in the number of men within the last year. Overall the Register is made up of roughly equal numbers of men and women, although there has been some differentiation over the years this has generally been within 10%.

Split of registrants by age

As the largest component of new registrations is made up of those with recognised UK qualifications it is no surprise that 62% of new registrants are under 30.

Figure 3 – new registrants by age category

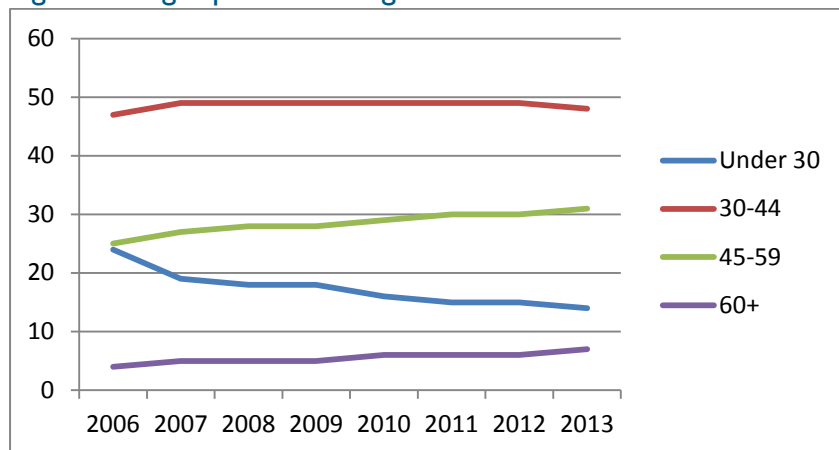


It's worthy to note that those over 30 years of age made up 38% of new registrants. This can be accounted for by a larger proportion of the overseas and EU applicants who were in

the 30+ categories, but also includes a number of mature students who have decided on a change of career.

Trends in age split for the Register as a whole

Figure 4 – age split of the Register since 2006



What this tells us

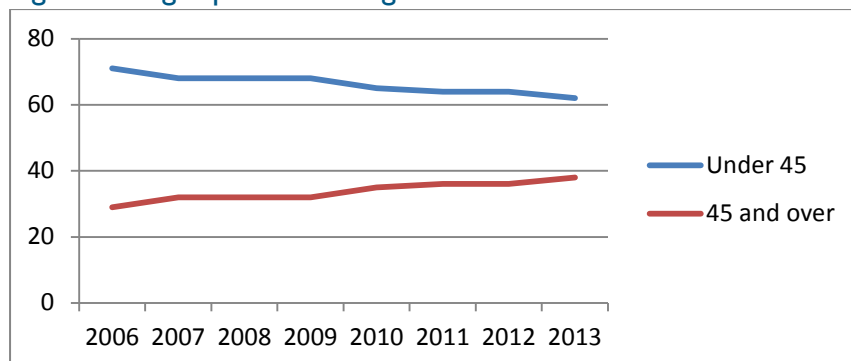
In general there has been little change in the overall percentages since 2006. Although it is noticeable that the number of registrants under 30 has been declining, even taking into account the higher number of registrants in that age group who gain initial registration. There has also been an increase in the higher age groups, with the number of registrants who are over 60, although this amounts to only 2 percent it equals a 50% increase. Also those within the 44-59 year age group has steadily increased from 25% in 2006 and now makes up 31% of registrants.

Some of this may be accounted for by the following factors:

- Higher mobility of younger registrants
- Economic conditions affecting registrants retirement plans

If we merge the two younger groups and the older groups together, this shows a slight drift in the age of registrants upwards.

Figure 5 – age split of the Register since 2006



Retention on the Register

It is a requirement that all those chiropractors on the Register, and who wish to remain registered for the following registration year, complete retention on the Register before the statutory deadline of 30 November. Although the rules state that the GCC must begin the retention process no later than 10 November to allow enough time for both registrants and the office to complete the process, retention for 2014 began on 23 September 2013. This is when those registrants who have provided an email address were sent a message to let them know they could complete their retention online. Those for whom we hold only a registered address where sent a paper retention application.

Before retention on the Register can be completed the following components must be completed and sent to the GCC:

1. Registration application
2. CPD record summary
3. Retention fee

All three retention components can be completed online through the My GCC web portal. The numbers completing their retention application online was approximately 90% in 2013. In total, at the end of the 2013 registration year there were 2,890 names on the Register of Chiropractors.

Removals from the Register

Excluding removals due to disciplinary matters, there are two ways of coming off the Register:

- **Registration lapses**

Those registrants who do not complete the retention process by the statutory deadline of 30 November face removal from the Register (lapsing), if they do not provide a complete retention application within 14 days of the date on the final warning notice, which is issued on 30 November.

Each year there will be registrants who no longer wish to remain on the Register, for reasons of retirement, as well as moving overseas amongst others.

On 15 December 2013 there were 67 lapses from the Register

- **Voluntary removals**

Registrants can apply at any point in the year for voluntary removal from the Register. To do this a registrant must complete an application form and provide a statutory declaration, witnessed by a solicitor, that they are not aware of any matters that could give rise to a complaint against them.

During 2013 there were 20 such removals from the Register. The reasons that registrants applied for voluntary removal are given in the table below.

Table 16 – number of voluntary removals from the Register by reason

Reasons for applying for voluntary removal	Number of registrants
Retired	9
Moved overseas	7
Taking a sabbatical	3
Health reasons	1

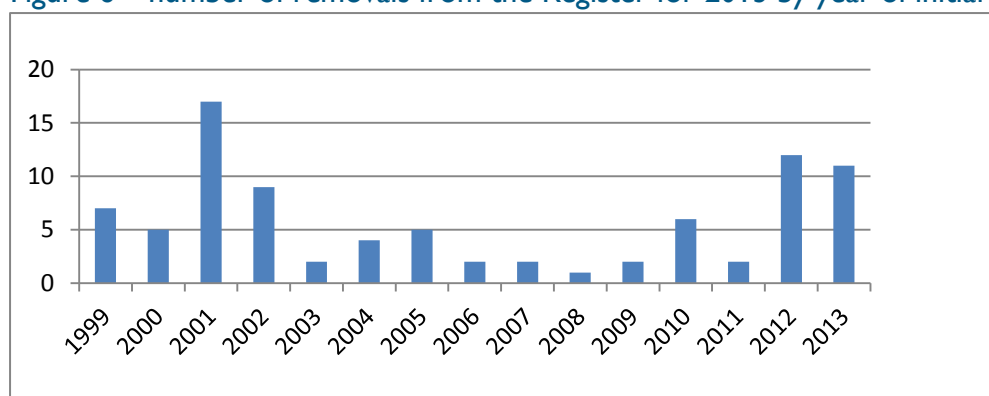
Table 17 – voluntary removals from the Register by age category

Age category	Number of voluntary removals
Under 30	5
30 – 44	6
45 – 59	4
60+	5

What this tells us

Although the figures are small they do show that the majority leave the Register because they are either retiring or they are moving overseas. We would expect this to also be the case for those registrants who allow their registration to lapse at the end of the year, although we have no method of collecting this information. An additional category that may need to be included would be those registrants taking maternity/ paternity leave, although it's unclear how many registrants this would affect.

Figure 6 – number of removals from the Register for 2013 by year of initial registration



What this tells us

Looking at the number of removals from the Register during 2013 by the year of initial registration we see that, as would be expected the highest number of removals came from those initially registered in 2001. This was at the end of the transitional period (the initial two years that the Register was open when there was a 'grandfathering' in of registrants practising in the UK), and accounts for the year with the largest number of initial registrants. The numbers of removals split between the years 2002 and 2011 are all single figures. However for both 2012 and 2013 the numbers increase slightly to 12 and 11 respectively. Simply looking at the data for those who took voluntary removal does not give us an answer as only two of those were initially registered in the 2012 and 2013 registration years.

However, when looking further at the reasons registrants took voluntary removal for those registered during 2012 and 2013, we see that over half moved overseas and the remainder because, for example, they were no longer practising as chiropractors or for personal

reasons. Again this appears to follow on from the findings earlier that those in the lower age categories are more mobile.

Annual audit of registration decisions

On 13 January 2014 a member of the GCC Audit Committee undertook an audit of decisions made on registration applications. This was to ensure that the process was fit for purpose and that correct decisions are being made.

A total of 20 initial registration applications were reviewed and the auditor concluded that 'the registration process is handled in a timely and efficient manner'. In addition, the auditor reviewed 25 annual retention applications. It was noted that the recommendation for an additional statement to be included as part of the declaration on the form to ensure registrants are aware of their responsibility in respect of professional indemnity insurance has been incorporated.

The auditor also drew attention to the two guidance documents the GCC has produced for the CPD scheme and which, it was felt, caused some confusion. The auditor was notified that the two documents would be amalgamated and reviewed and she considered that this would avoid future misinterpretation of the scheme.

Audit of continuing professional development records

The annual audit of CPD records began on 6 February 2013. 500 registrants were randomly selected to provide evidence of 15 hours learning with others they included on their 2011/12 CPD record summary by 9 April 2013.

It was emphasised to registrants that should they not provide evidence by the deadline, they risk their name being removed from the Register.

In total, 483 registrants completed the audit, with a further 17 being removed from the 2013 audit due to their circumstances. These circumstances were largely made up of those registrants who were unwell or who were in the process or recently moved and had difficulty in accessing their CPD record. No registrants were removed from the Register for non compliance.

Communications

During 2013 there were a number of revisions to literature produced by the Registrations section. These were:

Guidance for applicants for registration

This gives basic information for potential applicants for registration on the routes to registration, as well as the requirements to register and to remain on the Register.

Revision of the full range of GCC initial application forms

During the year applications for registration were revised and amended where necessary to ensure they were clear and easy to read.

New GCC website

The later part of 2013 saw the GCC introduce a new website. Much of the information on the website was rewritten to ensure clarity. In addition new sections were introduced to capture the full range of registration functions.

“I’m registered” logo

A new GCC logo was introduced for registrants to include on literature they produce or their website. The logo, as below, is available for download from the GCC’s website and is available either in black or the GCC corporate blue (pantone 308).

The logos are designed to be simple and clearly show to patients and the public registration with the GCC.

