

**General
Chiropractic
Council**



Annual registration report 2014

© General Chiropractic Council March 2015

Report on the 2014 registration year

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the registrations department of the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2014.

New Registrants

An overview of 2014 new registrations

In total 179 new registrants joined the GCC during 2014. This was an increase of 23 from 2013, when 156 were registered. The monthly split of new registrants was as follows:

Table 1 – number of new registrants during 2013 and 2014 by month

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2014	19	11	4	12	4	4	36	42	21	5	13	8
2013	20	11	4	7	6	4	32	39	19	6	5	3

The chart below shows clearly where the peaks in initial registration applications occurred.

Figure 1 – number of new registrants during 2014 by month

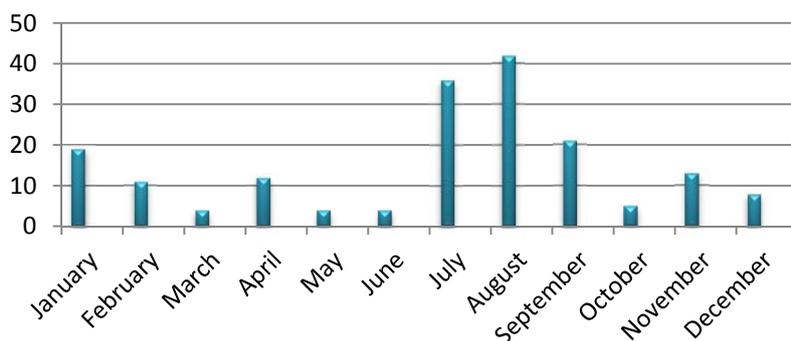


Table 2 - 2014 new registrants by registration route

Registration route	Total new registrants
Route 1 – UK accredited course	159
Route 2 – Foreign qualified	13
Route 3 – EU General Directive	7
Total	179

What this tells us

The majority of initial registration applications were received at the beginning of the year (January – February) and again from July to September. This follows graduation from accredited courses from the three UK institutions offering chiropractic training, and which makes up the vast majority of registration applications.

The flow of work is largely in line with 2013, although there was a slight increase in new registrants during November and December. This can be explained by a cohort from the McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC) graduating in October in 2014 and therefore applying for registration earlier than the December cohort. This has led to their registration falling within the 2014 registration year rather than the following year as occurs with the December cohort. In previous years there have not been graduates from MCC in October as all students graduated from December.

In total 159 new registrants graduated from colleges with a GCC recognised qualification and therefore made up the largest proportion of new registrants during 2014. Only 13 were registered on the basis that they held a foreign chiropractic qualification and by passing a test of competence, while the remaining 7 registrants were registered on the basis that they held EU community rights and had practised within the EEA.

Routes to GCC registration

Route 1 – by accredited course (UK)

By holding a chiropractic qualification recognised for the purposes of registration by the GCC. As the GCC has only been asked to accredit courses within the UK, only graduates of relevant courses from the three UK colleges are eligible through this route, (Anglo-European College of Chiropractic, McTimoney College of Chiropractic and the University of South Wales).

Route 2 – unrecognised foreign chiropractic qualification (test of competence)

By holding a chiropractic qualification from without the UK that meets the requirements of the relevant GCC rules and also meeting the Standard of Proficiency by passing the test of competence.

Route 3 – EU General Directive (establishment)

By virtue of European Union (EU) General Directive 2005/36/EC. Applicants must possess EU community rights and meet the requirements of establishment in another European Economic Area (EEA) member state.

Route 4 – EU General Directive (temporary and occasional)

By virtue of European Union (EU) General Directive 2005/36/EC. Applicants must possess EU community rights, meet the requirements of establishment in another European Economic Area (EEA) member state and also intend to practise in the UK only on a temporary and occasional basis.

Applicants holding a UK recognised qualification (route 1)

The GCC recognises courses from three UK educational institutions. These are the only UK courses that allow individuals to apply for registration once completed.

The breakdown below gives the numbers of 2014 graduates of accredited courses who were granted registration by 1 March 2015.

Table 3 – new registrants registered during 2014 by institution

Educational institution	Month course completed	Number of graduates	Number registered	% of graduates registered during 2014
McTimoney College of Chiropractic (MCC)	December 2013	36	31	86.1
Anglo-European College of Chiropractic (AECC)	June/ July 2014	113	60	53.1%
University of South Wales	June/ July 2014	60	45	75%
Total	-	209	136	65.1

What this tells us

While roughly the same percentage of MCC graduates have gone on to register as from the December 2012 cohort, the percentage of graduates from both the AECC and the University of South Wales are noticeably different from the 2013 figures.

When comparing the figures for 2013, we see that a higher percentage of the 2014 AECC cohort registered, with 53.1% registering in 2014 compared to 43% in 2013. While 91.7% of the 2013 University of South Wales cohort registered, that figure dropped for 2014 to 75%. It's worth bearing in mind that those who have not yet applied may do so at any time in the future as there is no time limit.

We have estimated that of those who have not yet registered, some 80% are overseas nationals, with the remaining 20% made up of both UK and dual (including UK) nationality. This then falls within the range of our expectations and we would expect to see a proportion of graduates who are not yet registered applying in the future.

Applicants holding a relevant foreign chiropractic qualification (route 2)

For those who achieved a chiropractic qualification outside the UK, GCC registration is possible by applying to register and taking the additional step of passing a test of competence. The test of competence is designed to ensure that those applicants who do not have a qualification accredited by the GCC meet the same standards as those who do.

Table 4 – new foreign qualified registrants by educational institution

Educational institution	Country	Number of registrants	Year of graduation (total graduates in brackets)
Cleveland	USA	1	2002
Durban	South Africa	1	2013
Life	USA	1	2012
Macquarie University	Australia	9	1992 (1) 2010 (2) 2012 (1) 2013 (3) 2014 (2)
Southern California	USA	1	2011
Total	-	13	-

What this tells us

The number of those applying by holding a relevant, unrecognised chiropractic qualification is significantly smaller than those graduating from accredited courses, with an overall figure of those achieving registration via route 2 at 13.

As was the case in 2013, over half of those granted registration during 2014 under the foreign qualification rules were graduates of Macquarie University, New South Wales, Australia. However, unlike 2013, where 100% of those granted registration had graduated within the previous two years, in 2014 only 55% had done so.

Those 13 registered through route 2 in 2014 graduated over a wider period of time, but from fewer colleges – seven colleges in 2013. However, given that the numbers remain small; minor fluctuations can dramatically change these figures.

Test of Competence

During 2014 the Test of Competence was administered on behalf of the GCC by the University of South Wales.

The GCC's contract with the University of South Wales, for running the test came to an end in September 2014. During the period running up to the end of the contract the GCC reviewed the test and made arrangements for a new Test of Competence to be in place by January 2015.

Table 5 – number of tests and candidates per annum 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
2014	2	20

Table 6 – breakdown of number of candidates per test for 2014

Test dates	Number of candidates
22 March	12
14 June	8
13 September	Cancelled

What this tells us

In line with figures for the past five years, the total number of candidates for the test has remained around 20. Three tests were scheduled for 2014, although the final test in September was subsequently cancelled as the minimum number of six candidates was not realised.

One possible reason for the lack of candidates may have been because some potential candidates held back from taking the September test in the belief the revised test of competence would be easier.

Breakdown by candidates graduating college for each test

Table 7 – 22 March 2014 test of competence

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Durban	1	1	0	
Life	2	0	2	1
Macquarie	8	7	1	
South California	1	0	1	
Total	12	8	4	1

Table 8 – 14 June 2014 test of competence

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Life	3	1	2	2
Macquarie University	2	2	0	0
New Zealand	1	1	0	0
South California	1	1	0	1
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	1	1	0	0
Total	8	6	2	3

Table 9 – total of candidates of all 2014 tests

Institution	Total candidates	Pass	Fail	Resits
Durban	1	1	0	1
Life	5	1	4	3
Macquarie	10	9	1	0
New Zealand	1	1	0	0
South California	2	1	1	1
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	1	1	0	0
Total	20	14	6	5

What this tells us

Demand for the test was higher at the beginning of the year as was also seen the previous year. Essentially this is because the March test is the first test available to those newly graduated from Macquarie University. Two thirds of candidates for the March test were graduates from Macquarie University.

With a figure of 70% for 2014, the pass rate was slightly lower than in 2013 with 76%, but in excess of the mean pass rate of 66%.

Table 10 –failed test components for 2014

Component	Number of attempts	Number of failed attempts	% of failed attempts
Clinical objective structured clinical examination (OSCE)	6	1	16.6%
UK healthcare system	0	0	0
X-ray OSCE	0	0	0
Case management	6	6	100%

Table 11 – number of candidates who failed by number of failed components

Number of failed components	Number of candidates
1	5
2	1
3	0
4	0

What this tells us

All six candidates failing the test during 2014 were unsuccessful on the case management component. Only one candidate failed a further component, in this case the Clinical OSCE. In contrast to 2013, no candidate failed the UK healthcare system or X-ray OSCE components.

Four candidates failed the test in March, although there was a lower percentage of candidates than for the June test which had fewer candidates.

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

Establishment (route 3)

The number applying through the EU General Directive has remained at around the same level as 2013, with seven applicants. Those seven applied on the basis that they intended to practise within the UK on a permanent basis, which is referred to in the Directive as 'establishment'.

Table 12 – educational institution of those applying through the EU directive

Educational institution	Country	Number of registrants	Year of graduation (total graduates in brackets)
Insitut Franco-Européen de Chiropraxie (IFEC)	France	6	2000 (1) 2013 (2) 2014 (3)
National University of Health Sciences	USA	1	2000 (1)
Total	-	7	-

What this tells us

With one exception all registrants applying through the EU general directive route were French graduates of IFEC. Given the limited number of institutions offering chiropractic courses in Europe, it's of no surprise that a higher number were from France and the IFEC, although in comparison to 2013 the diversity of qualifications was much more limited. We may have expected to see a number of graduates from one of the other educational institutions within the EU running chiropractic programmes, or even, as in the past more applicants with qualifications from outside the EU.

Table 13 – nationality of those applying through the EU General Directive

Nationality	Number of registrants
British	1
French	6
Total	7

What this tells us

A comparison of 2013 and 2014 figures in relation to nationality shows that while French nationals made up the largest contingent of registrants during 2013, it was not nearly as large as the 2014 contingent. It's unclear at this stage whether this represents a pattern that will be repeated in future years.

Temporary registration (route 4)

2014 was the first time that the GCC had accepted an application under the directive for temporary registration. The registrant was a French national holding a recent qualification from IFEC. As they subsequently wished to remain in the UK, they have gained full registration under the EU General Directive on the basis of establishment and their data is included in the section above.

Future application numbers

Before looking at any trends it should be mentioned that while we can consider previous statistics to look for future trends, the many variables mean they should be considered as 'best guesses' only.

The largest variable is the number of new graduates who may apply for registration. This is particularly important and difficult when forecasting using percentages since a small number of graduates either applying or not applying for registration will have a disproportionate effect. This can be seen by comparing the 2013 and 2014 figures for new UK graduates applying for registration, which shows that 123 out of the 210 graduates from 2013 registered, equating to 58.6%, while in 2014 just 13 more graduates registered bringing the total to 136, increasing the percentage up to 65%.

Also when forecasting numbers of new registrants for future years, the rate of attrition of students comes into play and the further into the future the stones are cast the bigger the extrapolation has for error.

Table 14 – potential graduates from UK educational institutions for the following five years

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Anglo-European College of Chiropractic	109	75	120	110	105
University of South Wales	78	98	68	80	80
McTimoney College of Chiropractic	41	43	34	29	28
Total	228	216	222	219	213

What this tells us

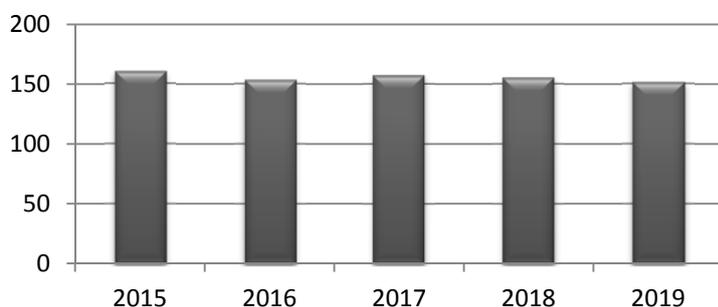
While the overall number of potential graduates remains between 213 and 228 for the next five years, there is some considerable difference in the number of graduates from each institution in certain years, as shown in the shaded areas of table 14 above. While not as important as the total of potential graduates, it shows that there is capacity for dips in graduates in some years that reduce the overall number wishing to apply for registration.

Table 15 – projected registration figures for the following five years

Educational institution	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
UK graduates*	141	134	138	136	132
Foreign Qualified	13	13	13	13	13
EU Directive	7	7	7	7	7
Total	161	154	158	156	152

* these figures have been calculated assuming a registration rate of 62% for UK graduates, which is the average of the past two years.

Figure 2 - total of potential registrants for the following five years



What this tells us

Over the next five years a period of relative stability in the number of new registrants is the most likely outcome. We are not aware of any factors currently that may dissuade large numbers of new graduates from registering, nor that would prevent students from completing their course.

Retentions

Summary

By the end of the 2014 retention period on 14 December 2014, 2,965 registrants had retained on the Register for 2015.

Factors affecting annual retention figures:

- as noted below, there are a number of reasons individuals will register as non-practising
- there are a number of people who will leave the Register on an annual basis; and
- there are a number of individuals who will register for the first time after 10 November each year in order to pay the initial registration fee rather than the initial registration fee and the retention fee.

These factors make it difficult to determine actual retention income for any period as we rely on past trends in forecasting.

Non-practising rate of registration

Schedule 2 of the GCC (Registration) Rules 1999 allows a registrant not intending to practise as a chiropractor within the UK for the duration of the registration year to pay a reduced fee of £100.

At the end of December 2014 there were 277 registrants who had paid the £100 non-practising rate as they did not intend practising in the UK during 2015, representing 10% of the profession in total.

Table 16 - reasons given for paying the non-practising registration rate

	Number of registrants	%age of total
Health	1	0.36
Financial	2	0.72
Overseas licensing	2	0.72
Teaching	2	0.72
Travelling	2	0.72
Education	7	2.53
Career change	8	2.89
Sabbatical	11	3.97
Unknown	11	3.97
Not working as a chiropractor	25	9.03
Maternity/ Child care	32	11.55
Overseas	174	62.82
Total	277	100.00

What this tells us

Most of those paying the non-practising rate did so as they were practising, but outside of the GCC's jurisdiction, making up over 60% of the total. The next largest group were those taking a break from their careers for maternity and child care reasons.

Those who had changed careers and also those no longer working as chiropractors totalled 33 registrants. Although we do not have data on what all of these individuals are doing, we are aware that some have gone through additional training to work in other healthcare fields. This does raise questions as to why those not intending to work in the chiropractic profession again either wish to remain registered or are able to do so.

Removals from the Register

Continued registration is dependant upon registrants complying with all requirements of registration. Failure to meet those requirements can lead to removal from the Register. Removal from the Register can be for any of the following reasons:

Failure to remain fit to practise (struck-off)

Registrants who do not meet the standards as set out within the GCC's Code of Practice/ Standard of Proficiency, or who do not comply with GCC legislation, may be removed from the Register

Failure to retain on the Register (lapse)

All registrants must provide a full application for retention on the Register before the statutory deadline of 30 November in any given registration year. Should the application not arrive by deadline a final warning notice is issued, allowing the registrant a further 14 days to ensure their application for retention has arrived.

If at the end of those 14 days the application has not arrived then removal from the Register is automatic.

Failure to complete annual CPD requirements (CPD non compliance)

Each year all registered chiropractors must fill in and return a CPD record summary to show the learning they have accomplished to comply with the GCC's CPD scheme. Those registrants who do not provide a summary, or who fail to meet the requirements of the scheme, may be removed from the Register.

Voluntary removal

In addition to these, the GCC rules allow a registrant to remove his or her name from the Register at any time by filling in the relevant application form and a statutory declaration.

Table 17 - method of removal from the Register during 2014 by month

	Struck off	Lapse	Voluntary	Deceased	CPD non compliance	Total
January	0	1	0	0	0	1
February	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	1	1	2	0	0	4
April	1	1	0	1	0	3
May	0	0	1	0	0	1
June	0	0	2	0	0	2
July	0	0	2	0	0	2
August	0	0	2	1	0	3
September	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	1	0	3	0	41	45
November	0	0	0	0	1	1
December	0	36	9	0	0	45
Total	3	39	21	2	42	107

What this tells us

Essentially table 17 tells us exactly what we would expect, that the majority of removals from the Register fall in October at the end of the CPD period and after the retention period in December. The remaining 17 removals occurred throughout the year and were largely made up of voluntary removals, those who had died and those who were struck-off the Register.

Reasons for no longer remaining on the Register

These figures have been collated from voluntary removal application forms and email correspondence with registrants. Where a registrant's last known registered address was overseas, it has been accepted as the reason they did not wish to remain on the Register.

Table 18 – reasons for no longer remaining on the Register

	Number of registrants	As a percentage	Since restored to the Register
Financial reasons	1	0.93	0
Maternity	1	0.93	1
Sabbatical	1	0.93	0
Unemployed	1	0.93	0
Travelling	1	0.93	1
Dissatisfaction with the profession	2	1.87	0
Returned to education	2	1.87	0
Deceased	2	1.87	0
Career change	3	2.80	0
Health	3	2.80	0
Struck Off	3	2.80	0
Missed deadline to retain in the Register	3	2.80	3
Retired	15	14.02	0
Unknown	30	28.04	0
Working overseas	39	36.45	3
Total	107	100.00	8

What this tells us

There were a range of reasons for registrants no longer remaining on the Register. Over a third of those coming off the Register did so as they were no longer working in the UK. As we do not have data on 28% of leavers, this figure will in fact be higher.

Table 19 - whether those coming off the Register were practising or non-practising

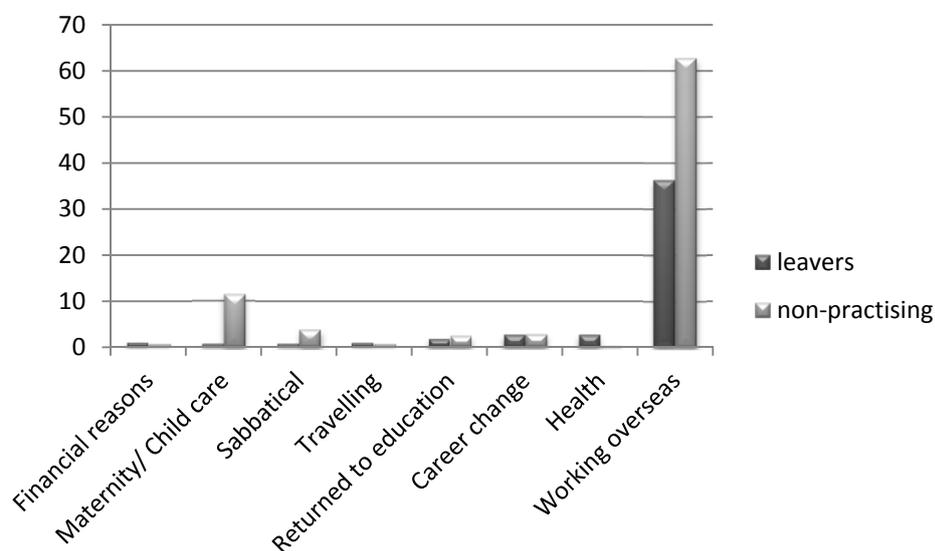
	Number of registrants	As a %age of removers	As a %age of the Register
Practising	68	64%	90%
Non-practising	39	36%	10%
Total	107	100%	100%

What this tells us

A larger proportion of those coming off the Register during 2014 were non-practising than practising. We believe this is because registrants are cautious about coming off the Register initially and prefer to remain as non-practising in case their circumstances change. There is still a perception among a small number of registrants that restoring to the Register is a complicated process involving passing the test of competence, although this has never been the case.

A comparison of the reasons given for paying the non-practising rate or leaving the Register

Fig 3 - the main reasons given by those leaving the Register and those paying the non-practising rate



What this tells us

Figure 3 shows that for both those registrants paying the non-practising rate and those leaving the Register, their main reason for doing so is an intention to practise overseas.

There is some equity between the remaining categories, except for those on maternity leave/ child care, where substantially more pay the non-practising rate (32 registrants) than leave the Register (one registrant) entirely.

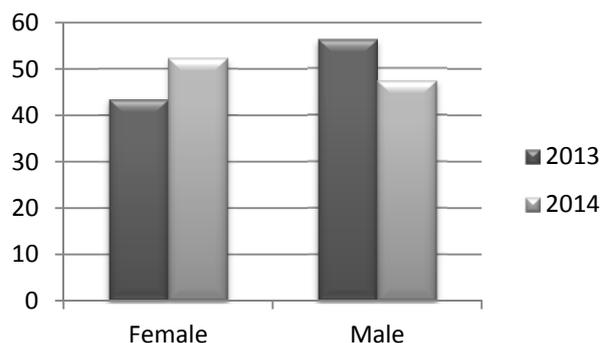
Diversity of the Register

The sex and date of birth of all applicants is collected on the registration application form.

Split by sex of new registrants

The following data gives details of the split by sex for all those registered between 1 January and 31 December 2014.

Figure 4 - new registrants by sex



What this tells us

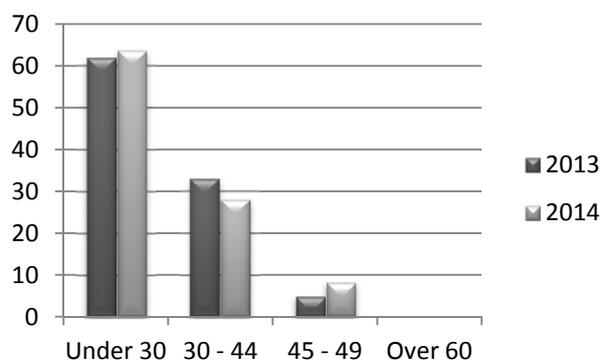
The percentage of female new registrants in 2014 was 52.5%, which was 9% higher than 2013. The split by sex within the profession has largely been 50:50 for some time, although in recent years there have been more male new registrants than female.

The figures for 2014 show that the number of new male registrants remained around the mid 80 mark, while there were an additional 26 new female registrants in 2014, which given the number of new registrants was only 179, is a significant number.

Age split of new registrants

The following data gives details of the age split for all those registered between 1 January and 31 December in 2013 and 2014.

Figure 5 - new registrants by age category



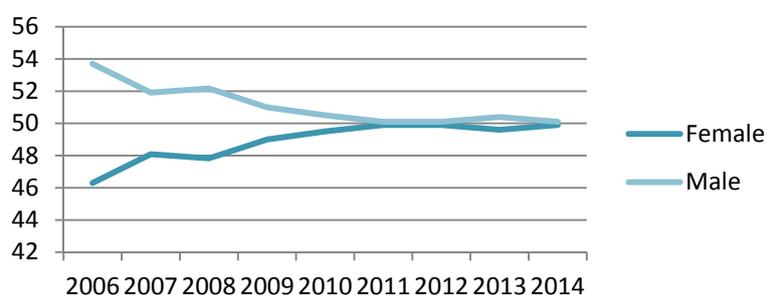
What this tells us

New registrants are largely made up of those under 30, which is as we would expect given that the majority of those are new graduates.

Comparing 2014 figures with 2013 simply shows that this trend continues with a minor increase in those under 30 and in the 45 – 49 brackets at the expense of those between 30 and 44.

Split by sex of the Register as a whole

Figures 6 – split by sex of registrants per year since 2006



What this tells us

There is a trend of almost a 50:50 split. The difference is now so small that there are fewer than 10 individuals between the two totals with 1,513 male and 1,508 female.

Spilt by age of the Register as a whole

Figure 7 – age split of the Register since 2006

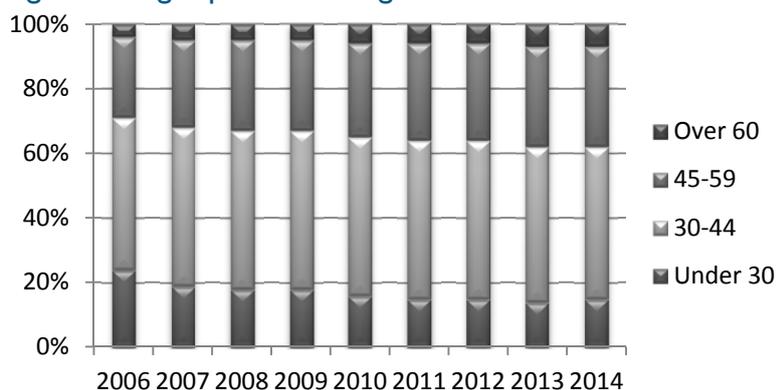
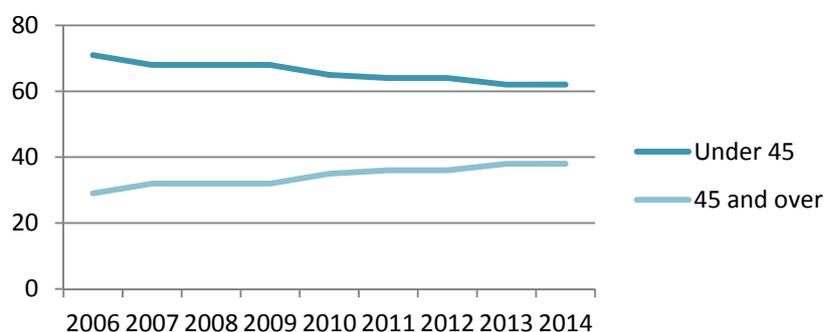


Figure 8 – age split of the Register since 2006



What this tells us

The overall age profile of registrants was the same as for 2013. The general trend of a reduction in the under 45 bracket and an increase in those over 46 seems to be levelling off, which may be as a result of stability in the number of new graduates and those leaving the Register.

Communications

During 2014 the registrations team engaged with stakeholders in a number of areas.

New Continuing Professional Development (CPD) guidance

In early April 2014 the GCC published revised guidance on its CPD scheme, resulting in the merging of two previous documents:

1. Mandatory CPD guidance published in 2004; and
2. CPD guidance published.

The purpose of the revised document was to aid clarity, giving examples of the learning that is acceptable as CPD and the learning that does not fall within the current scheme. However, given the terms used within the CPD rules themselves, it has not been possible to entirely avoid ambiguity.

Revised dates for submission of annual CPD record summary

In previous years registrants submitted their annual CPD record summary along with their annual retention application, the deadline for which is the end of November each year. This has meant that the registrations section has not had an opportunity to check the content of all CPD returns in the past. An emphasis has therefore been placed on confirming that the full 30 hours have been completed and that all relevant sections of the summary have been filled in.

In 2014 for the first time we brought the deadline for return of completed CPD record summaries forward to 30 September. The purpose of this change was to allow the office

enough time to check every summary and to ensure compliance with the CPD rules and guidance. Where issues are identified there is then enough time for these to be rectified.

The vast majority of issues we identified were down to misinterpretation of the guidance by registrants or summaries that did not give adequate information of either the identified learning need or the learning activities themselves. In the majority of cases issues were resolved quickly when registrants provided further detail.

A report based on issues identified in the 2014 CPD returns has been compiled and fed into the ongoing CPD review. It can also be found on the GCC website [here](#).

Monthly registration movement reports

Since January 2014 the GCC has produced a monthly report showing movements on the Register of Chiropractors. This includes new registrants, those coming off the Register and when sanctions have been imposed upon registrants affecting their ability to practise.

The report is published online and also circulated to professional associations and those private healthcare providers holding lists of chiropractors available to the public, this is to help ensure they are referring to up- to- date information.

Registration of chiropractors in Isle of Man and Gibraltar

During 2014 the GCC was approached by the respective governments of both the Isle of Man and Gibraltar, bringing in separate legislation requiring all of those calling themselves chiropractors within their jurisdictions to hold registration with the GCC.

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Isle of Man Government during 2014 and, a further memorandum was agreed with the authorities in Gibraltar and signed on 14 January 2015.

For further information on registrations or CPD, please contact:

Registrations team

General Chiropractic Council

44 Wicklow Street

London

WC1X 9HL

020 7713 5155

www.gcc-uk.org

enquiries@gcc-uk.org