

Ms A Thompson
BAPCA
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27 May 2010

Dear Annie

Thank you for your letter dated 21 May concerning the possible statutory regulation of psychotherapists and counsellors and in particular the Health Professions Council's (HPC) Professional Liaison Group (PLG).

Unfortunately the core premise of your letter is not correct as the PLG is not a 'representative' group. As I am sure you know, there are dozens of groups in the UK directly concerned with psychotherapy and counselling and it would be impractical for all of them to participate in the meetings.

However, the way the PLG is engaging with the large number of organisations is to hold the PLG meetings in public so that they can listen to the debates on the issues that it is trying to resolve.

In addition, all organisations who represent psychotherapists and counsellors will have two formal opportunities to strongly influence the Government's proposals. Firstly, the Government will need to consult on any new legislation that would have to be enacted before the register is opened. Secondly, once the Government has decided that the register is to be opened, the HPC will formally consult on both the Standards of Proficiency and the Standards of Education and Training.

I should point out that the statutory regulation of a new profession is a devolved matter and that you will be able to participate in the various devolved governments' processes.

If you have any additional questions or points of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition, if you would like to meet with me or my colleague Michael Guthrie, who is the HPC's Director of Policy and Standards, please contact my PA Jane Tuxford who will be able to make arrangements for a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar