



# Snapshot

Annual review of performance 2019/20

Regulator reviewed: **General Osteopathic Council**

## Key facts & figures:

- regulates the practice of **osteopathy** in the **United Kingdom**
- **5,457** professionals on register; (as at 31/12/2019)
- **£320** annual fee for registration for first year; **£430** for the second year; and **£570** for each subsequent year



## Standards of good regulation met

General Standards	5/5
Guidance and Standards	2/2
Education and Training	2/2
Registration	4/4
Fitness to Practise	5/5

We look carefully at a range of evidence to decide whether each Standard is met or not. The total number of Standards met does not on its own give the full picture of how a regulator is performing. Read the full performance review to find out more.

Find out more about our performance reviews at:  
[www.professionalstandards.org.uk/performancereviews](http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/performancereviews)

# Focus on: How the GOsC is meeting the Standards

In our annual review of performance, we found that the GOsC had not made significant changes to its practices, processes or policies during the performance review period and the information available did not give rise to concerns about its performance. Therefore, we concluded that the GOsC has demonstrated that it continues to meet all our Standards of Good Regulation.

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## GENERAL STANDARDS: PROCESSES DO NOT IMPOSE INAPPROPRIATE BARRIERS OR OTHERWISE DISADVANTAGE PEOPLE WITH PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

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The GOsC has a dedicated webpage on equality and diversity which outlines its commitment to ensuring that all its activities provide equal opportunity. It provides support to assist individuals who may have dyslexia or other needs to ensure that its Continuing Professional Development scheme is accessible to all. GOsC panel and staff members are required to undertake regular training on bias and equality and diversity. Processes are in place to make reasonable adjustments for witnesses and registrants who participate in its fitness to practise process.

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## EDUCATION AND TRAINING: MAINTAINS AND REVIEWS STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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The GOsC has commenced a review of its Guidance for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education in the light of the introduction of the revised Osteopathic Practice Standards, guidance on the duty of candour and professional boundaries, and changes to the quality assurance process for recognised qualifications.

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## REGISTRATION: MAINTAINS AND PUBLISHES AN ACCURATE REGISTER

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The GOsC acted quickly to investigate and rectify a register entry which failed to display the restriction imposed upon a registrant. It investigated the reasons for the error and introduced a series of additional checks to further assure the accuracy of the register.

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## FITNESS TO PRACTISE: ANYONE IS ABLE TO RAISE A CONCERN ABOUT A REGISTRANT

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The GOsC commissioned an independent audit of its initial stages of its fitness to practise process during this performance review period. Following findings that the adequacy of written reasons provided in decisions made by Screeners under the Initial Closure Procedure could be improved, the GOsC introduced specialist training on drafting decisions. It is producing consolidated Guidance for Screeners in response to the audit findings.

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## FITNESS TO PRACTISE: SEEKS INTERIM ORDERS WHERE APPROPRIATE

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In October 2018, the GOsC introduced an amended process for assessing risk, involving a new risk assessment form and a review at a senior level of all cases deemed high risk. Weekly case reviews are completed in cases identified as high risk and all risk assessments are reviewed every two months.

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## FITNESS TO PRACTISE: ALL DECISIONS MADE ARE PROPORTIONATE, CONSISTENT AND FAIR

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In one appeal to the High Court by a registrant against a decision of the Professional Conduct Committee Panel, the Judge was critical of the Panel's approach to questioning the registrant, which the Judge deemed was unfair and rendered the proceedings unfair. In response to the judgment, the GOsC conducted training on the management and questioning of witnesses and developed a practice note on questioning in hearings. We were satisfied that the GOsC took reasonable action to address the concerns raised within the judgment.

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## USEFUL LINKS/FIND OUT MORE

- ▶ our short explainer about the performance review process
- ▶ the Standards of Good Regulation
- ▶ the evidence framework we use to measure how regulators are meeting the Standards