



# The year in stats

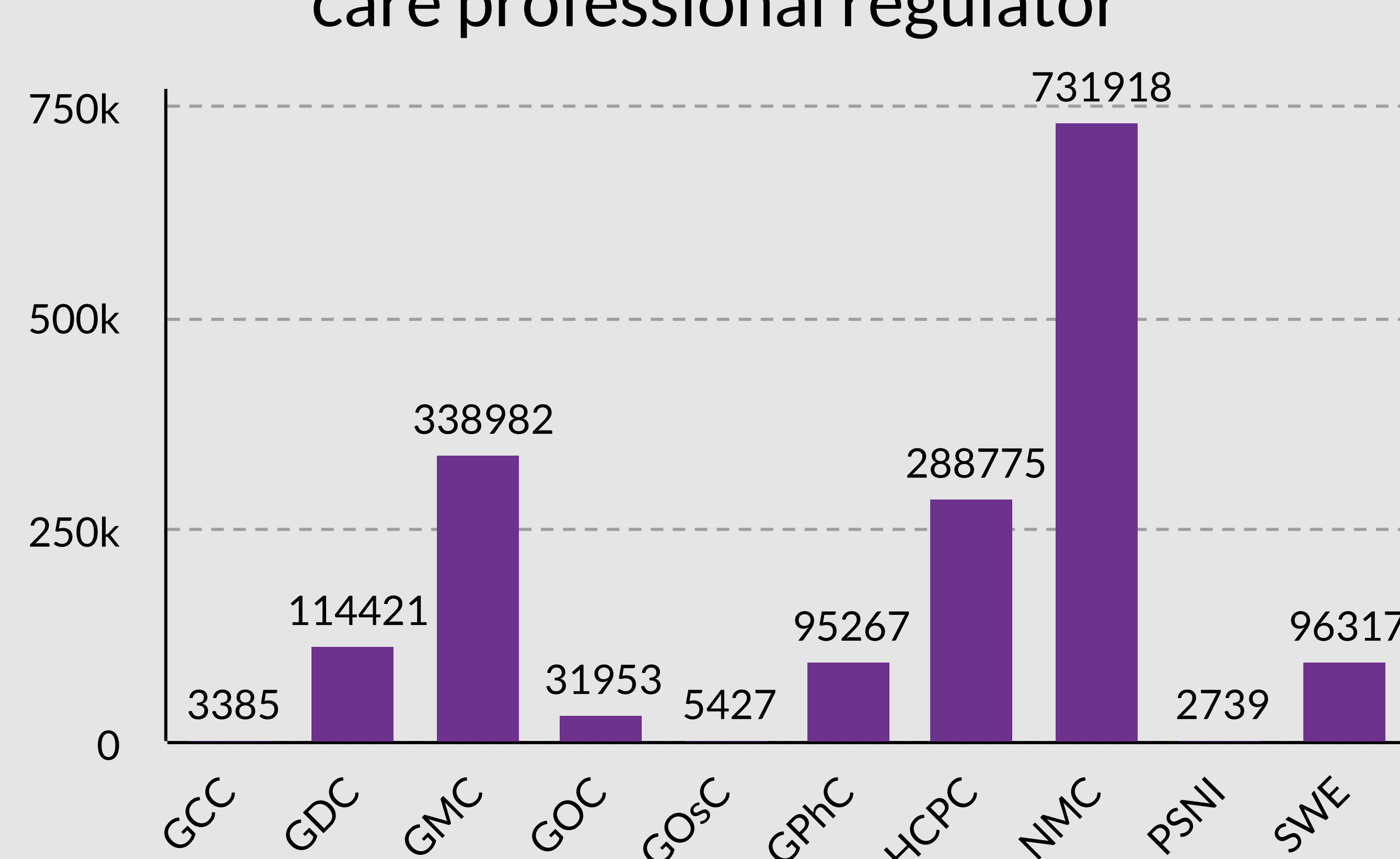
## 2020/21

#1

### An overview of what we do

- The oversight of 10 statutory bodies that regulate health and social care professionals in the UK
- The accreditation of the registers held by non-statutory registering bodies of health and care professionals
- The provision of commissions to, and undertaking investigations for, government
- The provision of advice to other similar organisations in the UK and overseas

Number of registrants per health and social care professional regulator



#2

### Performance Reviews



Performance review consultation

This year was the first full year of reviewing the regulators using our new Standards of Good Regulation. We also ran a consultation on how we approach regulator performance reviews.

Our regulator reviews published this year demonstrate that the regulators continue to protect the public - meeting most of our Standards of Good Regulation. Where regulators do not meet a Standard, it usually relates to their fitness to practise processes.

Social Work England adopted a new process as part of its fitness to practise proceedings - 'accepted outcomes' - we conducted a review during its first year of operation.



11 performance reviews published



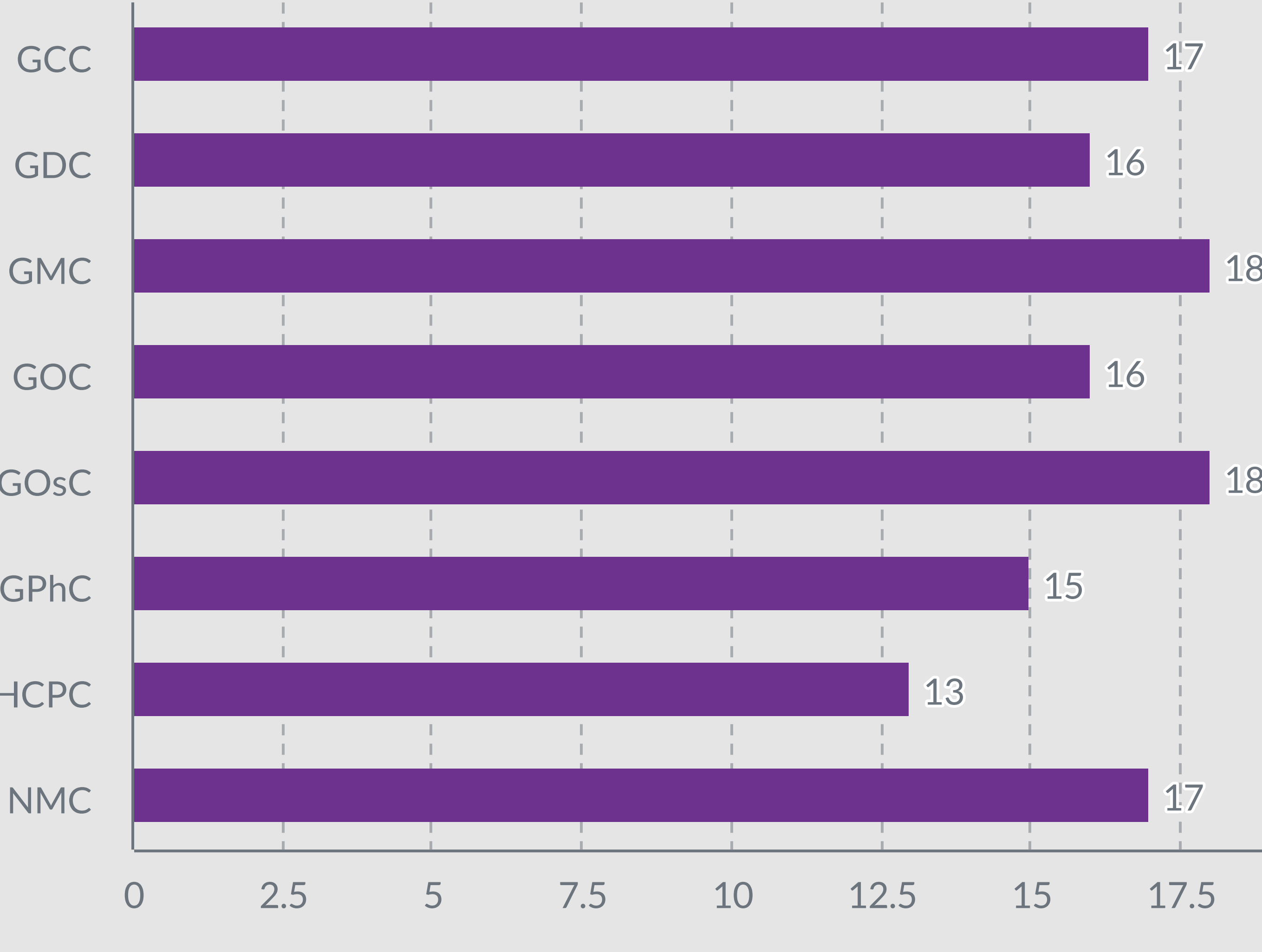
1 review of SWE's use of accepted outcomes in its fitness to practise process

#3

### Standards met by regulators

PSNI report is for 2019/20 under previous Standards and met 22/24

SWE began operation on 2 December 2019 so its first performance review will be published later in 2021



#4

### Scrutinising panel decisions



2,018 final fitness to practise decisions scrutinised

- Due to pandemic, decrease in number of hearings, especially from April-July 2020.
- Some hearings were moved online.
- In response we produced guidance for regulators on conducting virtual fitness to practise hearings.
- Our appeals heard in 2020/21 were all agreed by settlement.



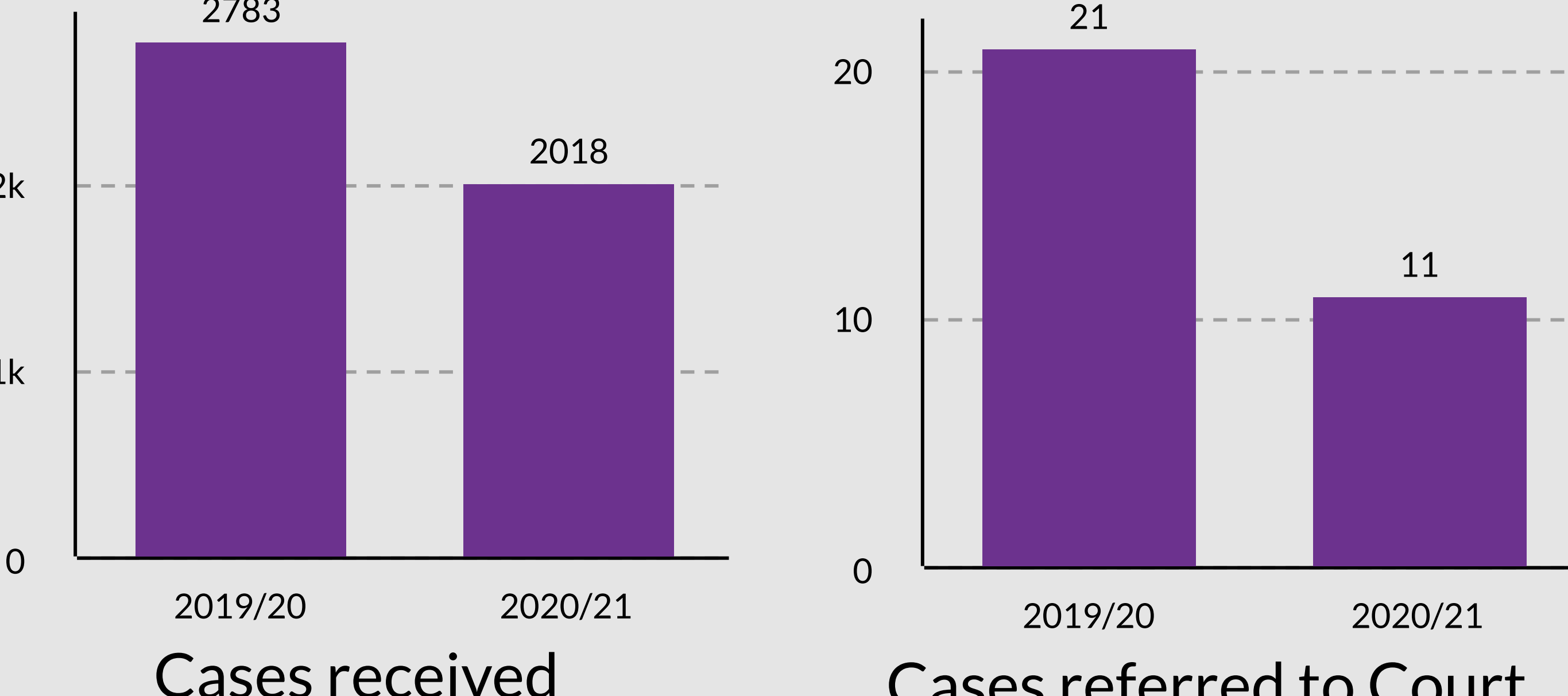
75 detailed case reviews



20 case meetings



Referred 11 cases to court



#5

### Accrediting registers



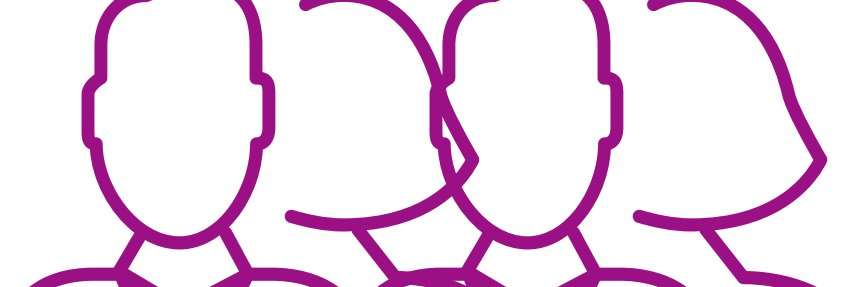
25 registers

Strategic review conducted to look at the future shape of the programme.

Consultation conducted on the future shape of the programme with three main objectives: gather views on what immediate changes could be made for assessing risk; a revised funding model; and whether we should take account of evidence of effectiveness of treatments offered by registrants.

Consultation responses: we had almost 100 responses to the consultation: 84 full and 13 part responses.

We continued to raise awareness of the need for accredited registers to be able to undertake more safeguarding checks to strengthen the protection Accredited Registers can offer.



100,000 practitioners



Covering 60 occupations

#6

### Improving regulation



Covid-19 learning review

We conducted a Covid learning review containing case studies from each of the regulators, to identify lessons for professional regulation from the early stages of responding to the pandemic (published in April 2021).



35 blogs published

Review into research into health and care regulation commissioned from Cardiff University.

Patient and public perspectives on future fitness to practise processes conducted by Community Research.



2 research reports published in 2020/21; 3 others commissioned & published in early 2021/22

Research also commissioned during 2020/21 on whether consistency between regulators matters, ethical dilemmas during the pandemic and cognitive bias in decision-making - all published in early 2021/22.

#7

### Reforming regulation

#### ONLINE EVENTS



We shared insights/promoted discussion at:

- Symposium
- Duty of Candour Scotland seminar
- Seminar on regulatory developments in Wales
- Appointments seminar
- Research and policy fora

Towards the end of 2020/21 the Government published its consultation on *Regulating healthcare professionals, protecting the public*.

Though we welcomed many of the proposals put forward in the consultation, there were three areas which gave us cause for concern and where we believed, if not addressed, could inadvertently create a gap in public protection as well as reduce accountability and transparency.

Our main aim in the reforms was to ensure that the reforms stay focused on public protection. To this end we produced two short reports (published in April and May 2021) setting out concerns about the proposal to have no independent oversight of cases settled by 'accepted outcomes' - a new approach proposed as part of the fitness to practise process; and outlining the three areas that gave us cause for concern and how they could be addressed.

Find out more at [www.professionalstandards.org.uk](http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk)

