

Accreditation renewal report

Standards 1-8

British Acupuncture Council (BAcC)

August 2025

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About accreditation

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) accredits registers of people working in a variety of health and social care occupations that are not regulated by law. To become an Accredited Register, organisations holding registers of unregulated health and social care roles must prove that they meet our *Standards for Accredited Registers* (the Standards).

Initial accreditation and full renewal decisions are made by an Accreditation Panel following an assessment of the organisation against the Standards by the Accreditation team. The Panel decides whether to accredit an organisation or not. The Panel can also decide to accredit with Conditions and provide Recommendations to the organisation.

- **Condition** – Issued when a Panel has determined that a Standard has not been met. A Condition sets out the requirements needed for the Accredited Register to meet the Standards, within a set timeframe. It may also reduce the period of accreditation subject to a review or the Condition being met.
- **Recommendation** – Actions that would improve practice and benefit the operation of the Register, but which is not a current requirement for accreditation to be maintained.

This assessment was carried out against our Standards for Accredited Registers¹ (“the Standards”) and our minimum requirements for the Standards as set out in our Evidence framework². More about how we assess against Standard One can be found in our Supplementary Guidance for Standard One³.

We used the following in our assessment of the BAoC:

- Documentary review of evidence supplied by the BAoC and gathered from public sources such as its website
- Due diligence checks of the register
- Share your experience responses

¹ https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/publications/standards/standards-for-accredited-registers.pdf?sfvrsn=e2577e20_8

² https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/accredited-registers/standards-for-accredited-registers/accredited-registers-evidence-framework-for-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=55f4920_9

³ https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/accredited-registers/standards-for-accredited-registers/accredited-registers-supplementary-guidance-for-standard-one.pdf?sfvrsn=3e5f4920_6

The Outcome

The Accreditation Panel met on 30 May 2025 to consider the **British Acupuncture Council (BAcC)**. The Panel was satisfied that the BAcC could meet, with Conditions, all the Standards for Accredited Registers. **We therefore decided to accredit the BAcC with Condition.**

We noted the following **positive findings**:

- The Independent Moderator reviews cases and prepares an annual report with recommendations to improve the Investigating Panel's functions. The 2023 report, noted as good practice by the Accreditation Panel, includes observations and actions taken for each case.
- To support the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) process, BAcC has developed a comprehensive CPD handbook and a CPD Guide to exemption, along with CPD policy, audit, and non-compliance policy.
- The BAcC makes sure the complaints page is always accessible in the footer of all webpages.
- The BAcC has established comprehensive guidance to assist both witnesses and complainants.

We issued the following Condition to be implemented by the deadline given:

Condition		Deadline
Standard Six	1. The BAcC must develop a robust business continuity plan to ensure it can mitigate any threats to regular business practices.	6-months

We issued the following Recommendations to be considered by the next review:

Recommendations	
Standard Two	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. BAcC should update its registration appeal processes to more explicitly include the returning members pathway.2. BAcC should develop a registrant-based, targeted strategy to address misleading advertising. Additionally, noncompliance audit data should be utilised to ensure a reduction in advertising concerns over time.
Standard Five	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. BAcC should develop 'indicative sanctions,' screening and other guidance to help assure that decisions are fair, consistent, and transparent.
Standard Six	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. BAcC should review Conflict of Interest processes to address actual and perceived conflict and consider training of staff to support confidence that conflicts of interests are effectively managed.
Standard Seven	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. The BAcC should consider, document and share with the PSA the risks related to peri-ocular acupuncture to determine if further mitigation is required to protect patient safety through any or all the following methods: communications and engagement with registrants, updates to professional standards and guidance, changes to initial training outcomes (i.e. curricula). This recommendation should be addressed by the next assessment.
Standard Eight	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. BAcC should publish grades of membership on their registration webpage.

About the Register

This section provides an overview of the BAcC and its register.

Date first Accredited	14 March 2013
Type of Organisation	The BAcC is a professional body and register for traditional acupuncturists. The BAcC is a Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital use of 'Limited' exemption. (Companies House number 03066963.
Overview of Governance	BAcC is overseen by a Governing Board which is made up of five practitioner directors (including the chair) and four non-practitioner directors. There are three sub-committees, the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, Professional Standards and Regulation Committee and the Membership Services Committee. The day-to-day business of BAcC is carried out by a small staff team.
Overview of the aims of the register	BAcC establishes professional standards for UK acupuncturists, including a Code of Professional Conduct and Safe Practice Guidelines.
Register Website	https://acupuncture.org.uk/
UK countries in which Register operates	All four UK countries.
Role(s) covered	Traditional acupuncturists
Number of registrants	2159 (as of Feb 2025)
Main practice settings	BAcC registrants offer private services to patients individually within small clinical settings. Registrants may operate across multiple clinics or treatment environments.
About the patients and service users	Individuals seeking support for health conditions may include those experiencing chronic pain, non-specific musculoskeletal pain (such as back and neck pain), osteoarthritis, shoulder pain, chronic headaches or migraines, fibromyalgia, and depression.

Inherent risks of the practice

This section uses the criteria developed as part of the Authority's *Right Touch Assurance tool*⁴ to give an overview of the work of BAaC registrants.

Risk criteria	Acupuncturists
<p>1. Scale of risk associated with acupuncturists.</p> <p><i>a. What do acupuncturists do?</i></p>	<p>a. As per BAaC, there are distinctive styles of acupuncture. These can be divided into three broad categories: traditionally based systems of acupuncture, western medical acupuncture, and microsystems. British Acupuncture Council members are trained in one or more traditionally based systems of acupuncture: such as TCM, Five Elements, Stems and Branches, Japanese Meridian Therapy, and many others. These styles differ slightly in needling and diagnostic techniques, but all trace their roots back to the classical texts such as the Yellow Thearch Canon of Internal Medicine: <i>huangdi neijing</i>; Sometimes acupuncture needles are inserted for just a second or two, or you may be left to rest for a while before the needles are removed. The needles are so fine that most people do not feel them being inserted.</p> <p>There are few steps stated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gather medical history: 'A BAaC acupuncturist will take medical history, read pulses, may examine the site of your symptoms, and look at your tongue. Your individual treatment plan will be based on your state of health and lifestyle. Your acupuncturist will decide which combination of points is right for your whole body as well as your symptoms.' Practitioners should pay ample attention to risk stratifying patients based on their medical history and other relevant characteristics.' ○ Acupuncture treatment: 'Thin needles are inserted into several acupoints along a patient's body. The number and placement of needles varies depending on each patient's condition and desired outcome. In addition to needle manipulation, an acupuncturist may also use moxibustion (cones of burning herbs) and cupping (glass cups applied to skin with suction) during a session in order to stimulate particular points or areas. The goal of each treatment is to

⁴ https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/docs/default-source/publications/policy-advice/right-touch-assurance---a-methodology-for-assessing-and-assuring-occupational-risk-of-harm91c118f761926971a151ff000072e7a6.pdf?sfvrsn=f537120_14.

<p>b. How many acupuncturists are there?</p> <p>c. Where do acupuncturists work?</p> <p>d. Size of actual/potential service user group</p>	<p>allow qi to flow freely without blockages throughout the body while also promoting pain relief, relaxation and improved overall health’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Course of treatment: Weekly sessions are quite usual to begin with, for five or six treatments, reducing in frequency as your body responds. <p>b. There are 2159 registrants.</p> <p>c. BAaC registrants’ work with patients normally occurs on a one-to-one basis or within small clinical settings. Registrants work in the NHS, private clinics, local authority services, care homes, hospices, rehabilitation, and homelessness centres, etc.</p> <p>d. Registrants generally consult with approximately 15 to 20 clients per week.</p>
<p>2. Means of assurance</p>	<p>BaC holds an accredited register of Acupuncturists. BAaC <i>Code of Professional Conduct</i> sets out members’ professional obligations and expected standards of professional behaviour, while the BAaC <i>Code of Safe Practice for Acupuncture</i> defines the standards for the safe and hygienic practice of acupuncture. The BAaC <i>Code of Disciplinary Procedures</i> outlines the process for dealing with complaints against those who are or have recently been on the membership register of the British Acupuncture Council. And the BAaC <i>Standards of Practice for Acupuncture</i> reflect the artistry of professional practice expected of an experienced BAaC Member.</p> <p>The means of assurance will depend on the practice setting. For managed premises such as NHS settings, there will be criminal records and other pre-employment checks required.</p>
<p>3. About the sector in which acupuncturists operate</p>	<p>Acupuncture as a modality is used by some doctors, nurses, and physiotherapists within the NHS. They use acupuncture, often in a simplified form, as an adjunctive treatment. GPs can also refer patients to BAaC registrants. Acupuncture is used within hospices.</p>

<p>3. Risk perception</p> <p><i>Need for public confidence in acupuncturists?</i></p> <p><i>Need for assurance for employers or other stakeholders?</i></p>	<p>As many registrants are likely to be self-employed, it is important that members of the public have confidence in the practitioners they choose to deliver acupuncture. The specific approach of BAAC, which may not always be available as part of mainstream NHS services, makes it important that the public are aware of what to expect from practitioners.</p> <p>Since registrants may be working with children and/or vulnerable adults, it is important that the public can have confidence there are appropriate safeguards in place.</p>
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Assessment against the Standards

Standard One: Eligibility and ‘public interest test’

Summary

1.1 We found it is in the public interest to continue to accredit the BAaC.

Accreditation Panel findings

1.2 We completed Standard One assessment for the BAaC in July 2024. The Accreditation Panel found that the BAaC registers fall within the scope of the Accredited Registers Programme. We considered that the work of acupuncturists can be beneficial. We found it is in the public interest to have a register of acupuncturists who meet appropriate standards of competence, conduct and business practice as required by the BAaC.

1.3 The Accreditation Panel concluded that Standard One was met, with a recommendation to address advertising concerns. This recommendation is assessed under Standard 2. Additionally, a risk associated with periocular acupuncture was identified through a share your experience submission and is evaluated under Standard 7.

2: Management of the register

Summary

2.1 The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Two was met. It issued the following Recommendations.

Recommendation:

- **Recommendation One: BAaC should update its registration appeal processes to more explicitly include the returning members pathway.**
- **Recommendation Two: BAaC should develop a registrant-based, targeted strategy to address misleading advertising. Additionally, noncompliance audit data should be utilised to ensure a reduction in advertising concerns over time.**

Accreditation Panel findings

2.2 The primary route to join the BAAC register is to complete an accredited course by the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) and provide evidence of its completion. Alternatively, there is an equivalence route available for those who possess other qualifications, which are assessed through the BAAC Independent Admissions route process.

2.3 Additionally, there are two other routes for registration, Returning Members who left the register over three years ago must complete a self-assessment of their competence, and National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) diplomates must complete six Mentoring-Supervision sessions within the first 12 months of membership. All applications are subject to evaluation of criminal or health declarations.

2.4 BAAC offers an appeal process for registration decisions. Appeals can be made against criminal convictions, health committee decisions, and through independent admissions routes. Currently, there is no appeal process for rejected returning member applications. BAAC is developing a formal appeals process for returning members, with interim appeals handled by the governing board. The Accreditation Panel has issued a recommendation.

- **Recommendation One: BAAC should update its registration appeal processes to more explicitly include the returning members pathway.**

2.5 During the last assessment, we issued a condition that the BAAC should update its register to ensure that details of qualification(s) required for registration are available from a registrant's profile, in line with our minimum standards. The BAAC publishes information about educational requirements for registration on the register, consistent with other Accredited Registers displaying required qualifications.

2.6 Our register check identified misleading advertising claims suggesting that acupuncture treats conditions such as infertility, PCOS, and skin concerns. These claims do not adhere to ASA guidelines, BAAC's comprehensive advertising guidance and their evidence base.

2.7 The BAAC has responded to the recommendations issued in Standard One by conducting regular monitoring of registrant websites, where similar concerns to those identified were observed. To address these issues, the BAAC organised webinars and communication activities. However, the effectiveness of these measures in reducing misleading advertisements remains uncertain. Consequently, the Accreditation Panel has recommended further action.

- **Recommendation Two: BAAC should develop a registrant-based, targeted strategy to address misleading advertising. Additionally, noncompliance audit data should be utilised to ensure a reduction in advertising concerns over time.**

2.8 BAcC has established a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) policy. Annually, the BAcC conducts an audit of CPD. Members who fail to comply with CPD requirements, or the audit process may be subject to the CPD Non-Compliance Policy. To facilitate the CPD process, the BAcC has developed a comprehensive *CPD Handbook* and a *CPD Guide to Exemption*.

Standard 3: Standards for registrants

Summary

3.1 The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Three was met.

Accreditation Panel findings

3.2 The Code of Professional Conduct⁵ sets standards for competence, ethics, and business practice. BAcC provides separate Duty of Candour guidance. Guidelines on acupuncture Scope and a Code of Safe Practice⁶ ensure safety and hygiene.

3.3 The BAcC has a Safeguarding Policy for young people and vulnerable adults. This policy aims to equip registrants with the necessary knowledge to handle safeguarding concerns. It includes a flow chart that outlines the procedure for addressing allegations of abuse.

3.4 BAcC provides a GDPR support hub on their website for registrants, including 'GDPR Guidelines for BAcC Members' and access to the ICO hub. BAcC offer guidance on handling 'Subject Access Requests' and ensuring notes comply with GDPR. The BAcC also maintains a Confidentiality and Data Protection Agreement for stakeholders.

3.5 The BAcC Code of Professional Conduct require that patients should be informed about the process for making a complaint if they are dissatisfied with any aspect of the service provided, including how to escalate the complaint to the BAcC.

3.6 The BAcC requires that registrants are required to have indemnity cover through the BAcC group insurance policy as a condition of Full membership, with certain exceptions. These exceptions include members working exclusively within the NHS, members who are also registered medical practitioners, and members considered 'high risk' by insurance brokers due to their practice of other therapies such as osteopathy or chiropractic.

⁵ [British Acupuncture Council Educational Standards](#)

⁶ [The Code of Safe Practice for Acupuncture](#)

3.7 The Accreditation Panel is satisfied that the BAAC have appropriate standards for registrants.

Standard 4: Education and training

4.1 The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Four was met.

Accreditation Panel findings

4.2 The BAAC does not accredit education and training courses for registration. Instead, the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) accredits education providers through an assessment process that assesses trainings to meet the required level for BAAC registration.

4.3 To be accredited by BAAB, a programme must offer a final award at level 6 on the framework for higher education. This is equivalent to a bachelor's degree with honours (BSc) as defined by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Out of BAAB's seven accredited providers, four offer QAA-assured BSc (Hons) degrees, while the remaining three award licentiates.

4.4 The BAAC also provides an equivalence route for applicants. Applicants are required to have a qualification at level 6 (e.g., bachelor's degree) on the RQF or higher and must demonstrate they meet the BAAC's Educational Standards.

Standard 5: Complaints and concerns about registrations

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Five was met. It issued the following Recommendations.

- **Recommendation Three: BAAC should develop 'indicative sanctions,' screening and other guidance to help assure that decisions are fair, consistent, and transparent.**

Accreditation Panel findings

5.1 The BAAC publishes its complaints process on their website. This information is accessible through a banner displayed in both the header and footer of the website, making it easy to locate. The complaints procedure is written in a clear and understandable manner.

5.2 Complaints regarding registrants are addressed under the Code of Disciplinary Procedures⁷. This code outlines the process, including the investigation process, hearings, and appeals. It also details the available sanctions and the publication of determinations and sanctions.

⁷ [21234 Code of Disciplinary Procedures - BAAC](#)

5.3 The Independent Moderator, appointed by the Governing Board, reviews cases not referred to the Professional Conduct and Competence Panel (PCCP) by the Investigating Panel. The Moderator, who is not affiliated with the BAaC, prepares an annual report with recommendations to improve the Investigating Panel's functions. The 2023 report, available on the website⁸, includes observations and actions taken for each case. The Accreditation Panel noted this as a good practice.

5.4 The BAaC outlines the appeal process under Sections 10 of the Code of Disciplinary Procedures, allowing registrants to appeal against an Interim Order, determinations of the Professional Conduct and Competence Panel, sanctions, and orders of the Restoration Committee. The Appeals Panel consists of three members, including at least one lay person and one Registrant, with no members from the Governing Board, other committees, or BAaC staff.

5.5 An Interim Order is imposed if necessary for public protection or public interest. The Interim Orders Panel reviews referrals from the Professional Conduct Officer, Investigating Panel, and Professional Conduct and Competence Panel for Suspension.

5.6 During the previous assessment, we recommended to develop 'Indicative Sanctions Guidance' and 'screening guidance' to assist complaints personnel and Panels in making fair, consistent, and transparent decisions. However, it has been noted that this guideline has not yet been completed. Consequently, the Accreditation Panel has reissued the recommendation.

- **Recommendation Three: BAaC should develop 'indicative sanctions,' screening and other guidance to help assure that decisions are fair, consistent, and transparent.**

5.7 The BAaC is part of the Accredited Registers Information Sharing Protocol, which outlines how fitness to practise decisions are shared with other registers. BAaC communicates with local authorities or police if there are safeguarding concerns and advises complainants to report potential criminal offenses to the police or social services.

5.8 The Publication Policy mandates that determinations and sanctions be published on the BAaC website and noted on the registrant's entry for specific periods. BAaC stated that the individual under the interim suspension order was not listed on the register due to their resignation.

5.9 Each panel, including the Investigating, Interim Orders, Professional Conduct and Competence, Appeals, and Restoration Panels, requires one lay member.

Standard 6: Governance

⁸ [2012 Moderator Report from the](#)

6.1 The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Six was met. It issued the following Condition and Recommendation:

Condition

- **Condition One: The BAcC must develop a robust business continuity plan to ensure it can mitigate any threats to regular business practices.**

Recommendation:

- **Recommendation Four: BAcC should review Conflict of Interest processes to address actual and perceived conflict and consider training of staff to support confidence that conflicts of interests are effectively managed.**

Accreditation Panel findings

6.2 BAcC is a Private Limited Company by guarantee. The Governing Board (GB) of the BAcC consists of five practitioner directors, including the Chair, and four non-practitioner directors. The GB oversees several sub-committees, such as the Finance & Risk Audit Committee, Governance, Education & Research, and the Leadership & Strategy Committee.

6.3 The BAcC's Governance webpage features the Annual Report and Strategy for 2021-2026, along with concise biographies of all Board members. The BAcC informed us that Board meeting minutes are available upon request.

6.4 BAcC does not have a business continuity plan, essential for BAcC's effective operation during emergencies or major transitions, including leadership changes. Therefore, the Accreditation Panel has issued the following condition:

- **Condition One: The BAcC must develop a robust business continuity plan to ensure it can mitigate any threats to regular business practices.**

6.5 The BAcC's Governance Handbook outlines the Board roles, values, and duties, including committees' responsibilities which sets expectations for effective governance by Board members and committees.

6.6 BAcC provided Conflict of Interest (Col) policies that outline its process for managing conflicts among board members, the ethics panel, and other committees. The conflict process should be designed to avoid both perceived and actual conflicts of interest, as noted during SYE. Perceived conflicts can undermine the effectiveness and reliability of outcomes. Therefore, the panel issued the following recommendation:

- **Recommendation Four: BAAC should review Conflict of Interest processes to address actual and perceived conflict and consider training of staff to support confidence that conflicts of interests are effectively managed.**

Standard 7: Management of the risks arising from the activities of registrants

7.1 The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Seven was met. It issued the following Recommendation.

- **Recommendation Five: The BAAC should consider, document and share with the PSA the risks related to peri-ocular acupuncture to determine if further mitigation is required to protect patient safety through any or all the following methods: communications and engagement with registrants, updates to professional standards and guidance, changes to initial training outcomes (i.e. curricula). This recommendation should be addressed by the next assessment.**

Accreditation Panel findings

7.2 The BAAC manages Conduct and Practice, and Strategic Risk Registers. The Finance Risk & Audit Committee and Governing Board review these quarterly. The Board meeting minutes are not available on their website for verification.

7.3 The BAAC website⁹ provides comprehensive information about acupuncture, including its technique, history, and what to expect during a session. It features an Acupuncture Research [webpage](#) with evidence supporting various conditions that acupuncture can help with, including citations and clinical guidelines. [Fact sheets](#) with commentary sections help the public contextualise the research. Additionally, the website offers [FAQs](#) addressing common concerns such as side effects, safety, and procedures, for understanding acupuncture and its risks and benefits.

7.4 Periocular acupuncture, which involves needling near the eye, may present potential risks as indicated in SYE and supported by the literature review conducted by the team. To mitigate these risks, the Accreditation Panel has recommended that monitoring of actions within a designated timeframe to ensure public safety.

- **Recommendation Five: The BAAC should consider, document and share with the PSA the risks related to peri-ocular acupuncture to determine if further mitigation is required to protect patient safety through any or all the following methods: communications and engagement with registrants, updates to professional standards and guidance, changes to initial training outcomes (i.e. curricula). This recommendation should be addressed by the next assessment.**

⁹ [About Acupuncture - BAAC](#)

Standard 8: Communications and engagement

The Accreditation Panel found that Standard Eight was met. It issued the following Recommendations.

- **Recommendation Six: BAcC should publish grades of membership on their registration webpage.**

Accreditation Panel findings

8.1 The BAcC offers accessible and user-friendly information about its role on its website. Navigation to the register is straightforward, the BAcC publishes relevant information across various tabs at the top of the website.

8.2 The BAcC enhances public protection by collaborating with other Accredited Registers and key stakeholders. This includes participating in ARC meetings, hosting the UK Conference of Chinese Medicine 2025 with the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine, and engaging with various organisations like Council of Heads of Acupuncture Colleges (CHAC), British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB), and

8.3 The BAcC offers grades such as *Full Members*, *Overseas Members*, *Non-Practising Members*, *Student Members*, and *Fellows*, as stated in their Memorandum and Articles of Association. The membership levels should be clearly explained on the website for access by the public, prospective registrants, and stakeholders.

- **Recommendation Six: BAcC should publish grades of membership on their registration webpage.**

8.4 The BAcC accepts practitioners working internationally. Its website states 'Acupuncturists on the BAcC's register are able to display the Accredited Register quality mark, a sign that they belong to a register which meets the Professional Standards Authority's robust standards, we noted it is important for the BAcC to clarify that the Accredited Registers quality mark is only linked to practitioners working in the United Kingdom.

8.5 The BAcC includes feedback from service users and stakeholders in its strategy. A focus group of twelve volunteer BAcC members helped shape the initial stages, including scope and priorities.

Share your experience

We ran a public consultation for the BAcC between 9 April 2025 and 30 May 2025. We received one Share your Experience (SYE) submission for BAcC

This SYE raised concerns regarding periocular acupuncture risks, conflict of interest, and complaint management. The Accreditation Panel noted the expressed dissatisfaction with the handling of complaints. The Panel reviewed the submissions related to Standard seven, as it appeared to be the primary area of concern. The Panel decided to address concern through the implementation of recommendation under Standard seven, with a deadline to follow the completion of the case to which this relates.

The Accreditation Panel noted that interim complaint outcomes are outside the scope of the Accredited Registers programme, as we are legally prevented from intervening in ongoing complaints or overturn complaint decisions under Sections 26(3) and 26(3A) of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002.

The Accreditation Panel reviewed further concern, specifically focusing on Standard Six. They observed that the BAcC has followed its procedures to address conflicts of interest affecting complaints, but these had not allayed the concerns of the complainant. The Panel have recommended additional steps to manage perceived conflicts.

Impact assessment (including Equalities impact)

We carried out an impact assessment as part of our decision to accredit the BAcC. This assessment included an equalities impact assessment as part of the consideration of our duty under the Equality Act 2010.

We have reconsidered our impact assessment in line with our processes for reaccreditation. We identified positive impacts in relation to some groups with protected characteristics such as age, disability, and women and have identified overall positive impacts in relation to equalities, cost and market and social and environmental impacts. While we have identified some areas of risk in the above report, we are satisfied these can be mitigated with the implementation of the above recommendations and condition.

The Accreditation Panel considered the potential impacts of requiring the BAcC to take a more robust approach to checking whether registrants are making unproven claims or otherwise misleading the public. This could include increased costs for the BAcC in terms of its complaints handling activities and engagement with registrants.