

Introduction of a three year licence/recognition period for individuals, regulated bodies and licensed bodies

Purpose: Approval

Author: Deputy Director of Authorisations and New Business

Approver: Chief Executive

Summary

This paper sets out a proposal for the Council to consult on the potential to introduce a common three year licence/recognition period for individuals, regulated bodies and licensed bodies. This would allow for regulatory requirements, including CPD to be demonstrated and monitored by CLC over a longer three-year renewal cycle.

Recommendations

The Council is asked to consider and comment on the options discussed within the attached report.

Risk management

A number of risk assessment would be required. Most notably, those associated to payment of fees, and any perceived (consumer and stakeholders) reduction of regulatory control, or licence holder competence.

Financial impact

As no changes are proposed to the payment of annual licence fees, it is not anticipated that there would be any reduction in annual income from licensees. Retaining the annual fee setting exercise would enable us to grow revenues through organic practice turnover growth. The fee setting is distinct from licensing and can be done entirely by finance.

Practice turnovers are declared by practices annually during PII renewal so no additional process will be needed to adjust practice fees annually. The OLC levy needs to be billed annually (Practice turnovers are required for part of the cost allocation) so there is no significant reduction in effort required in running both processes annually.

There would be some internal staff and external legal costs associated with the development of a new licensing framework.

There would also be costs associated with any new systems introduced as part of the automation of any of these processes such as an online registration system. This are future considerations for the CLC new CRM, and may be absorbed into its standard incremental development.

Diversity and inclusion impact

The paper outlines the potential benefits for individuals who wish to take short breaks from practice for reasons of ill-health or in order to meet their parental or other caring responsibilities. No other potential impact on diversity or inclusion has been identified.

If this proposal is taken forward, post consultation a full equality impact assessment will be undertaken and relevant questions should be asked as part of the consultation process so that any potential impacts are fully understood and addressed before any changes are implemented.

Communications requirements

The proposed changes would require the completion of an external consultation process. In order to support these steps, a full communications plan will be required to ensure a good level of engagement from our licensed individuals and bodies and interested members of the public

Publication status

Exempt from publication on the CLC's website, as subject to the Council's agreement, a consultation on the proposals within this report will be published in the future.