

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

Proposal for consultation

Welsh Language Scheme

July 2009

1. Introduction

Background information about CHRE

The Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence promotes the health, safety and well-being of patients and other members of the public in the regulation of health professionals. We scrutinise and oversee the work of the nine regulatory bodies¹ that maintain registers of health professionals. These bodies also set standards for training and conduct and take action where someone is not fit to practice.

We share good practice and knowledge with the regulatory bodies, conduct research, and introduce new ideas about regulation to the sector. We monitor policy in the UK and Europe and advise the four UK government health departments on issues relating to the regulation of health professionals. We are an independent body accountable to the UK Parliament.

We promote good practice in the regulation of health professionals in five main ways:

- We review the performance of the regulatory bodies annually to identify good practice and areas for improvement
- We audit the initial stages of the regulatory bodies' fitness to practise procedures and examine final decisions made by them about whether health professionals are fit to practise. In some cases we refer decisions to Court where we believe that such decisions are unduly lenient
- We conduct research, share learning with regulatory bodies and hold events to explore better ways to manage new challenges
- We advise the Secretary of State for Health and health ministers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on matters relating to the regulation of health professionals
- We keep abreast of European and international policies to improve policy decisions on UK regulation of health professionals. Through these networks, we advise colleagues in other countries the methods we have adopted for better regulation of UK healthcare professionals.

¹ General Chiropractic Council, General Dental Council, General Medical Council, General Optical Council, General Osteopathic Council, Health Professions Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

2. 12 week public consultation on our proposed Welsh Language Scheme

We launch a 12 week public consultation on our proposed Welsh Language Scheme on 20 July 2009. Anyone with an interest in our work is encouraged to offer their suggestions and feedback on our draft scheme. We have adopted the principle that in conducting public business in Wales, we will treat Welsh and English languages on the basis that they are equal.

The consultation question we would like a response to on our scheme is:

whether our proposal to communicate directly with the public in Wales in our approach to publishing and printing material, public meetings or press notices enables Welsh speakers to engage with us in our work.

We are keen to hear the views of a wide range of people and organisations to ensure that our Scheme is fit for purpose.

The main points in our draft proposal include:

- Making public/ patient information on our website available on a Welsh page in Welsh
- Making a Welsh version of our statutory documents; our *Annual report and accounts 2008/09* and our *Performance review of health professional regulatory bodies 2008/09* available on the Welsh page
- Maintaining a database of individuals and organisations who wish to correspond with us in Welsh
- When sending out circulars, leaflets or standard letters to the public in Wales, we will do so in Welsh and English.

We have invited patient and public members of our Public Stakeholder Network, healthcare professional regulatory bodies, community health councils, and Welsh-speaking community contacts to respond to this consultation. Public notices of the consultation will also appear in The Western Mail.

The consultation closes on 4 October 2009. For more information or to obtain a paper copy in English or in Welsh, please contact our reception on 020 7389 8030.

As a public body we are required by the Welsh Assembly Government, under the Welsh Language Act 1993 to prepare a Welsh Language Scheme.

All responses should be sent to:

Rachael de Souza
Public Affairs Manager
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
Kierran Cross
11 Strand
London WC2N 5HR
Tel: 020 7389 8031
Fax: 020 7389 8040
Email: Rachael.desouza@chre.org.uk

3. Criteria for consultation

This consultation follows the Government Code of Practice (<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf>). In particular, we aim to:

- Consult formally at a stage where there is scope to influence the policy outcome
- Consult for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible
- Be clear about the consultation process in the consultation documents, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals
- Ensure the consultation exercise is designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people it is intended to reach
- Keep the burden of consultation to a minimum to ensure consultations are effective and to obtain consultees' 'buy-in' to the process
- Analyse responses carefully and give clear feedback to participants following the consultation
- Ensure officials running consultations are guided in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they learn from the experience

4. Comments on the consultation process

If you have concerns or comments which you would like to make relating to the consultation process itself please contact CHRE's Consultation Coordinator:

Rachael De Souza
Public Affairs Manager
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
Kierran Cross
11 Strand
London WC2N 5HR
Tel: 020 7389 8031
Fax: 020 7389 8040
Email: Rachael.desouza@chre.org.uk

Consultation question on the process:

Does the proposed process accord with the five principles developed by the Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF), now known as the Better Regulation Commission?
The five principles are:

- Proportionality
- Accountability
- Consistency
- Transparency
- Targeting

5. Responding to the consultation

We would like to hear the views of a wide range of people and organisations on our proposed Welsh Language Scheme. The consultation will run from 20 July 2009 to 4 October 2009. All responses should be sent to:

Rachael de Souza
Public Affairs Manager
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
Kierran Cross
11 Strand
London WC2N 5HR
Tel: 020 7389 8031
Fax: 020 7389 8040
Email: Rachael.desouza@chre.org.uk