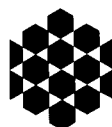


From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive
Dr Andrew McCormick



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábhálteachta Poiblí**

MÁINNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

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AMCC 2017

Date: 12 January 2009

Dear Mr Caulfield,

REQUEST FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS MODERNISING SCIENTIFIC CAREERS

Thank you for your letter of 30th December 2008 in which you express concern over the delays in bringing your profession under statutory regulation. In addition you enclosed a detailed briefing note from the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) concerning Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) and the impact this project may have on the statutory regulation of registrants.

The MSC proposals were issued for consultation towards the end of November and the consultation period is due to close in early March. The document 'The future of the healthcare science workforce - Modernising scientific careers: the next steps' (which can be viewed on the DHSSPS website) sets out a clear direction for the development of the scientific professions and emphasises the need to ensure that training and career pathways are underpinned by an enhanced regulatory framework to common and consistent standards. This provides the opportunity to consider the regulation of the totality of the healthcare science workforce within the overall proposals for Modernising Scientific Careers to support the delivery of high quality integrated care for patients.

This Department keenly supports an extensive and wide consultation involving employers, professionals, academics and other stakeholders on a UK-wide basis. As the model and detail evolves and is further shaped and refined it is important for all these stakeholders to have input.

Ahead of the UK-wide consultation the Office of the Chief Scientific Officer within the Department of Health (DH) in England held a number of Listening Events across the UK which provided an opportunity to hear from practitioners working in all parts of the service. An event in N Ireland was held on 29th August and a further event will be held in Belfast on Tuesday 10th February. If you would like to attend this event please contact the Department's Human Resources Directorate at wpu@dhsspsni.gov.uk.



The White Paper, *Trust Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century*, published in February 2007, sets out the Government's strategy for modernising the system of professional regulation in the United Kingdom, with public protection at its heart. The White Paper prioritises healthcare scientists in its plans for introducing statutory regulation but recognises that further work is needed to take this forward. Representatives from the RCCP, including its chair, Anne Burge, recently met with representatives from DH. At the meeting DH undertook to look again at putting together a timetable by March 2009 for bringing clinical physiology into statutory regulation.

In addition, a working group on Extending Professional Regulation, set up by the DH and including representatives from across the UK, has considered underpinning principles for extending professional regulation to groups not currently regulated. It has also identified a range of regulatory arrangements other than statutory regulation that can be adopted to offer the best option for particular occupational and professional groups. A fundamental consideration in this regard is the potential risk to the public from the work of the different groups, and the need to put in place arrangements that are proportionate to those risks. It is expected that the group will shortly report its findings and recommendations to Ministers.

I recognise the significance of these developments for your profession, and would be happy for you to meet with officials who represent my Department in the UK-wide project board for MSC. If you contact Doreen Wallace at 028 9052 2680 doreen.wallace@dhsspsni.gov.uk she will arrange for you to meet with David Bingham and Joyce Cairns from this Department.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW McCORMICK