

**Health Professions Council  
11 July 2006**

**ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT**

**Executive Summary and Recommendations**

**Introduction**

The nominations for the 2006 election of the President are set out in the attached ballot paper. Also attached are the candidates' statements and the balloting process.

**Decision**

The Council is asked to follow the balloting procedure at appendix 1 to elect the President of the HPC.

**Background information**

None

**Resource implications**

None

**Financial implications**

Included in 2006/7 budget

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Process for the Election of the President of the HPC

**Date of paper**

29 June 2006

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

## ELECTION FOR THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

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### Candidates' Election Statements

*Please read carefully before marking your ballot paper*

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**Name: Mr Robert Clegg**

**Title: Lay Member**

“A modest man with much to be modest about”

Having very much enjoyed my time with HPC, I trust that my contributions at Council and in committee, to date have demonstrated both my commitment and abilities to represent the organisation in the wider arena as your President.

I have been used to meeting with Ministers and MP's, Presidents of Royal Colleges and Post-Graduate Deans and have always managed not to make a fool of myself.

I appreciate the importance of the relationship between the Chair and Chief Executive (albeit from the other side) and believe that my experience would ensure that Marc and I could work well together, not only to meet the challenges facing HPC but also to take full advantage of the opportunities that are presented to us.

Finally, whilst fully appreciating and mindful of our role to first and foremost protect the public, I believe we have a major responsibility to our registrants. Not only should we represent their interests but we should also ensure that they get value for money and I would do everything I could to maintain fee payments at the lowest level possible.

#### **What do I bring to the HPC?**

- Total commitment to professional self-regulation
- Wealth of experience of the work of registrants' professions
- 32 years senior management experience, latterly as a chief executive of a Whole District NHS Trust
- Bags of common sense
- Good inter-personal skills with wicked sense of humour
- Time. My other commitments re local authority councillor and voluntary works are very much part-time. I would therefore be available.

**Name: Dr Anna van der Gaag**

**Title: Registrant Member, Speech and Language Therapy**

As President I would be committed to listening to stakeholders and maintaining respect for different viewpoints. The Health Professions' Council will continue to be in state of change after the Donaldson and Foster reports, and it must be able to respond in a well-informed way to the public, the professions and the politicians. I will ensure that we continue to be adaptive and responsive to changing demands.

As President I would lead the work of the Council through active collaboration and engagement, strengthening co-operation between Council members and the Executive. As President I would offer a complementary perspective to that of the Executive.

I have experience of a wide range of HPC activities, and have worked with staff from many parts of the organisation. I was appointed to the Shadow HPC in 2001, and have served on the Education and Training Committee, Registration Committee, Health Committee, and as Chair of the Communications Committee. I have acted as panel Chair at competence and health related hearings. I was a member of the first Standards of Proficiency PLG, the Health and Disability PLG, the CPD PLG, and the UK Health and Social Care Regulators Patient and Public Involvement Group.

I have engaged in clinical work, university teaching, management and research, working in the four UK countries and have a track record in leadership within my own field. I have undertaken research on the nature of professional competence, from an ethical and clinical perspective. At the national level I have been involved in Department of Health funded evaluations of professional competence and the role of support workers in the NHS, which led to further work on professional standards, clinical audit, organisational review, measuring the effectiveness of interventions and patient and public involvement. Much of this was carried out in a multi-disciplinary context. I have served on profession specific and multi-disciplinary committees, including the DH Therapy Professions Research Group, the National Centre for Clinical Audit, Kings Fund Clinical Effectiveness Group, and research and education committees of both European and international professional associations.

At this point in its development, I believe that the Council needs a President with experience of professional practice. This will be particularly relevant for registrants as we implement the audit of our CPD standards. It will be key to our discussions with aspirant groups. It is also crucial in the dialogue with patients, patient representatives, professional bodies and other regulators that the President is a health professional.

I am proud to be part of the regulatory reform process and am committed to seeing the HPC play a full part in future debates. The HPC needs to be a strong voice in the debate, a voice that is rooted in clearly articulated values, and judgements based on careful analysis. I know that I have the necessary commitment and strength of purpose to lead the HPC into the future, making it more effective and more meaningful to the public, patients and professions alike.

# HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

## Process for the election of the President of the Council

### Introduction

Paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 to the Health Professions Order 2001 provides that the Council shall elect a President from among its members, and that the President will serve a four year term unless he or she:

- resigns as President;
- ceases to be a member of the Council; or
- is removed by a majority vote of the other members of the Council.

### Process for the Election of President

#### Nomination Procedure

1. The Secretariat will announce the forthcoming election of President by email at least 15 full working days before the Council meeting at which the election is to take place.
2. Members may nominate themselves or may be nominated by another Council member. All Council members are eligible to nominate themselves or another Council member for the vacant position.
3. If an election for the post of Vice-President is being run concurrently with the election of the President, members may nominate themselves or be nominated for both positions.
4. Candidates may, if they wish, provide a supporting statement of not more than one typed A4 page (12 point Times New Roman). This statement must be provided by the date specified by the Secretary and will be circulated with the Council papers. Late papers will not be circulated.
5. Candidates who have been nominated by another member will be contacted by the Secretariat and must confirm by email or in writing that they wish to accept the nomination.
6. Nominations must be received at least 10 full working days before the Council meeting at which the election is to take place.
7. If no nominations are received by the closing date the Secretary to Council will be empowered to extend the nomination deadline for a further 5 full working days. The Secretary to Council will inform all members and will seek further nominations by email.

8. In a situation where no nominations have been received by the deadline the Council will meet as scheduled and will take a decision on how to proceed.
9. A list of nominations (in the form of a ballot paper) and supporting statements (if any) will be included with the Council papers for the Council meeting at which the election will take place.
10. A member who is not able to attend the meeting may appoint a proxy from among those members who will be present, who may vote on behalf of that member in the election procedure. The appointment of this proxy must be confirmed in an email or a letter to the Secretary to Council<sup>1</sup>.
11. A member who is not able to attend the meeting, and who does not wish to appoint a proxy, may post or email their ballot paper to the Secretary to Council. In order to ensure that there is no double voting, a covering letter which includes the name and signature of the sender must be included with the ballot paper. In the absence of this letter the ballot paper will be declared invalid. It is the responsibility of the member to ensure that their vote has been received by the Secretary. All votes will be treated in the strictest confidence<sup>2</sup>.

### **Balloting procedure**

1. The President will be elected at the first meeting of the Council following the end of the term of appointment of the preceding President. If this is not practical the Secretary to Council will be empowered to seek Council ratification by email that the election should be delayed until a date to be agreed by the Council.
2. The election will be the first item on the agenda of that meeting and the Registrar will act as chairman of the meeting for that agenda item.
3. The Registrar will detail the nominations as listed in the paper distributed to Council. Candidates who wish to withdraw their nomination may do so at this stage. No late nominations will be accepted.
4. Before the ballot is conducted each candidate will be given the opportunity, if they so wish, to address the Council for not more than five minutes.
5. In the event that only one candidate has been nominated then Council will be requested to pass a resolution appointing that candidate as President.
6. If there has been more than one nomination, then a secret ballot will be conducted by the Secretary to Council, among the members present. The Secretary will collect ballot papers from members acting as a proxy for another member separately and will include any valid postal/email votes in the count.

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<sup>1</sup> If an alternate member attends a Council meeting at which the election is to take place and votes in that election for the President, any proxy or postal vote from their corresponding registrant member will be set aside.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

7. The candidate with the majority of votes will be elected President. In the event of a draw the Council will take a short recess and consider how to proceed.
8. The members nominated may scrutinise the ballot process or appoint another member to do so on their behalf.
9. The Registrar will announce the winner to the meeting and the winning candidate will be appointed as President.

**June 2006**





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