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## Chair's Report – May 2023

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To flag developments at HCPC from the Chair's perspective and to update on activities of note.

### **2. Succession Planning**

Our new Chief Executive Bernie O'Reilly takes up his post on July 3. He is approaching his new role with a laser focus on public protection and with huge enthusiasm, as well as the skills and experience he brings to us.

Bernie's start week coincides with our next, face-to-face Council meeting and an all-employee face-to-face meeting at the end of the week, which are serendipitous. He has already had an opportunity to meet some Council members and has a full induction programme lined up.

### **3. Reform – and regulatory flexibility**

HCPC, together with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), will be in the next phase of regulatory reform, following the General Medical Council (GMC). The start date for drafting and preparing these reforms has not yet been stated but we have been in regular meetings with the Department of Health and Social Care and are preparing our next steps.

### **4. Strategy and Finance – Sustainability**

England's Chief Allied Health Professions Officer, Suzanne Rastrick, made a stimulating presentation to our March Council on the topic of environmental sustainability. As we agreed at the time, Suzanne has been a superb critical friend to the HCPC and to have her championing this existential and strategic theme is very good news.

I was delighted to hear that HCPC executives James McMahon and Rosemary Flowers-Wanjie gave what was described as 'a great presentation' at the launch of #Greener AHP week. Rosemary and James will share this presentation with Council at our May meeting.

### **5. Fitness to Practise (FtP)**

Laura Coffey, Interim Executive Director of Regulation and I continue to monitor HCPC's readiness to attain the remaining Professional Standards Authority's (PSA) Standards, keeping a keen focus on how Fitness to Practise is maintained and reported on. FtP will remain a Council top priority until all PSA FtP standards are sustainably met.

PSA Director of Regulation and Accreditation Graham Mockler has agreed that we should continue to hold FtP Performance Improvement Boards, reducing their frequency to two a year, as these have proven an excellent vehicle for demonstrating transparency, building trust, receiving feedback and learning from the discussion at and between the meetings.

It almost, but not quite, goes without saying that further investment which the proposed fee rise would make possible, will be necessary to achieve improvements at the desired pace.

## **6. Proposed fee increase for registrants**

Following our last meeting, the senior Executive and I have continued to engage with stakeholders on a range of topics. Most recently (May 17) I had the privilege of presenting and then a Q and A session at the Society of Radiographers' Council meeting. There were no particular queries on the proposed fee rise and I believe our rationale (and maths.) to be well understood.

## **7. Government relations**

With the advent of regulatory reform, the HCPC's consultations, parliamentary themes and relationship building, the calendar has an active programme that is now being driven through the new Office of the Chair and Chief Executive. Naturally, we engage with parliamentarians, civil servants and advisors in each UK legislature. Our advisors assist with high quality briefs and every meeting is prepared for thoroughly, with outcomes and follow up documented.

## **8. Concluding comments**

The Interim Deputy Chief Executive and I had a thoughtful and positive discussion about his performance against objectives, as part of the annual review cycle. My own review and those of Council members will take place over the 'summer' months.