

Education and Training Committee 27 September 2007

Withdrawal of approval from historic programmes

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

As a result of the completion of the definitive list of approved programmes, the Education – Approvals and Monitoring Department holds a list of approved programmes that are recorded as “closed”. These programmes either have no students, or have students but are no longer recruiting additional cohorts.

As all of these programmes still carry approved status the risk exists that an education provider may re-establish a training programme as leading to eligibility to register with the Health Professions Council. It would seem prudent to withdraw approval from these programmes in the interest of preventing this situation arising and assisting with the management of applicants to the Register who may hold these qualifications.

Approval is granted until withdrawn by the Education and Training Committee. In line with the Approvals and Monitoring 2007-2008 work plan it is proposed that the Education and Training Committee should withdraw “ongoing approval” from these programmes. By withdrawing “ongoing approval” the programme will remain approved between the commencement dates of the first cohort and final cohort. However approval will be withdrawn for any future cohorts.

Accordingly, approval will continue for qualifications held by:

- existing registrants;
- future graduates currently completing programmes that have recently stopped recruiting; and
- applicants to the Register through the return to practice route to registration.

This paper outlines the process the executive intends to follow to complete the aim of withdrawing approval from closed programmes.

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2007-09-05	b	APV	APV	Withdrawal of Approval	Draft	Internal
					DD: None	RD: None

The Process

This process has been devised in conjunction with legal advice to ensure the relevant stipulations of the Health Professions Order are followed and appropriate durations of notice will be provided to education providers.

In order to quickly and effectively withdraw approval, it is proposed that consent is obtained from the education providers that have authority over the closed programmes. To gain consent a letter will be sent education providers which will ask for signed confirmation of:

- the closure of the programme;
- the dates of first and final intake; and
- consent being given to withdraw ongoing approval of the programme.

In gaining the first and final intake date of the programmes the duration of approval of the programme can be time delimited. Also, intake rather than graduation dates allows for individuals to complete programmes over longer durations than normal, such as instances of extended sick leave.

In the event that a programme of study was delivered at an institution that no longer exists, we will contact the validating body for the award or the organisation that has inherited the records and governance of the previous institution.

The education provider will have twelve weeks in which to respond and a reminder will be issued after six weeks from the date of the letter being sent.

In the event of confirmation of closure of the programme and provision of consent to withdrawal of ongoing approval, the programme will be recommended to the Education and Training Committee for withdrawal of approval.

In the improbable event of information coming to light a programme is still recruiting, the programme will be referred to the Education and Training Committee for a decision. At this time, the programme will have been running without being subject to the HPC monitoring processes and may be recommended for withdrawal under paragraph 18 of the Order.

In the event of confirmation of closure of the programme but refusal of consent to withdraw approval, the programme will be referred to the Education and Training Committee. At this time, the programme may be recommended for withdrawal of approval under paragraph 18 of the Order. Before this action though it will be reiterated to the education provider that withdrawal of ongoing approval will not impact on any graduates of the programme.

The education providers will have the ability to appeal the recommendations made to the Education and Training Committee by submitting observations alongside the recommendations. The Education and Training Committee will make the decision on how to proceed if an appeal is made.

Withdrawing ongoing approval from programmes in future

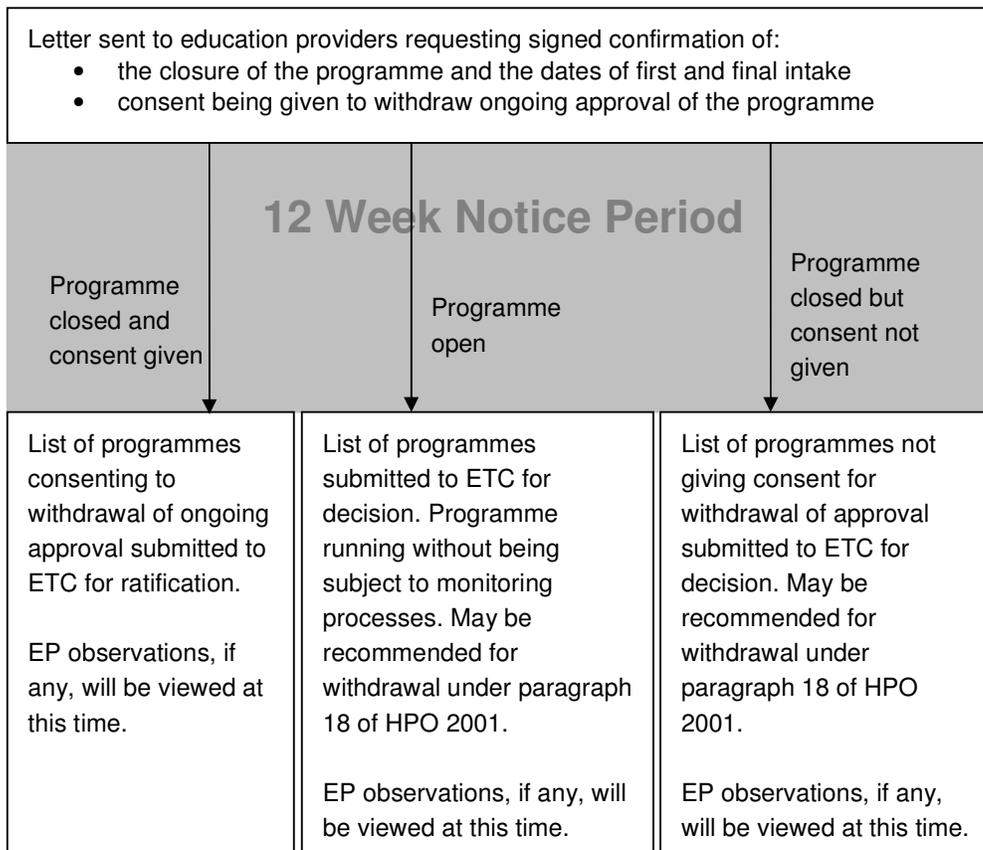
Additional to the current list of historic programmes there will also be programmes closing in future. It is intended that the same process will be

applied to these programmes also. Upon information or notice of a closure of a programme of study the same letter will be issued to the education provider requesting consent to withdraw ongoing approval. The recommendations for withdrawal will be submitted the Education and Training Committee for ratification.

In this way, it will be possible to prevent the accumulation of a number of programmes that are still approved but no longer recruiting students.

Process Summary

The flow chart below summarises the process as described above:



Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the following:

- To approve the process suggested above to formally withdraw ongoing approval from programmes of study no longer recruiting students.
- To approve the process suggested above to formally withdraw ongoing approval from programme of study that may in future stop recruiting students.

Background information

Definitive list of approved programmes

Health Professions Order 2001

Education – Approvals and Monitoring 2007-2008 work plan

Resource implications

Staff time to organise mailing and collate responses (included in department work plan and budget)

Financial implications

None

Appendices

Date of paper

Friday 7th September 2007