
1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011

Fitness to practise – key information 2011



Executive summary

Welcome to this summary of key information about the Health Professions Council's (HPC's) work in considering allegations about the fitness to practise of our registrants.

This summary includes key statistics relating to our cases and information about how our fitness to practise panels have dealt with the cases before them.

In 2010–11 we have continued to make improvements in all areas of our work. This has included changes to our fitness to practise brochures, the launch of a new audio-visual presentation setting out how our hearings work, commissioning research into the potential role of mediation in our regulatory proceedings, and introducing 'learning points' for registrants from our Investigating Committee.

We have seen a slight decrease in the number of concerns raised with us this year, compared to 2009–10. We received more cases from members of the public this year than any other group. Concerns from members of the public now make up 34 per cent of the total number of concerns raised, a three per cent increase from 2009–10.

Five hundred and thirty three cases were considered by panels of the Investigating Committee in 2010–11, an increase of six per cent from 2009–10. This differs from the number of cases received as not all cases received in a financial year are considered by a panel in that same year. Of those cases considered, a decision was made in 512 cases. The case to answer rate for cases considered by panels of the Investigating Committee is now 57 per cent, a decrease of one per cent from last year. Taking into account the cases closed before consideration by a panel of the Investigating Committee, 60 per cent of cases are closed without referral to a final hearing.

We concluded 315 cases at final hearing in 2010–11. This is an increase of 19 per cent from 2009–10. The length of time for cases to conclude at final hearing has reduced to a mean and median of 15 and 14 months respectively. In 2009–10 the length of time it took for cases to conclude was a mean of 18 months and a median of 16 months.

It is of course important to highlight the low number of cases proportionate to the overall number of registrants on the HPC Register. Our case load involves only 0.35 per cent of HPC registrants.

We are pleased that the report by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) on the initial stages of health professional regulatory bodies' initial decisions concluded that "the HPC has a well-managed system of casework with no evidence of unacceptable risks to patients or to the maintenance of public confidence."

I hope you find this summary of interest. If you have any feedback or comments please email me at ftp@hpc-uk.org

Kelly Johnson
Director of Fitness to Practise

Cases received in 2010–11

Total number of cases received in 2010–11

Year	Number of cases	Total number of registrants	% of registrants subject to complaints
2010–11	759	215,083	0.35

Who raised concerns in 2010–11?

Type of complainant	2010–11	% of cases
Article 22(6) / anon	166	21.87
Employer	217	28.59
Other	21	2.77
Other registrant / professional	75	9.88
Police	25	3.29
Public	255	33.60
Total	759	100

There was a decrease of 1.7 per cent in the number of cases the HPC dealt with in 2010–11, compared to 2009–10. The number of registrants on the Register has increased by 4.5 per cent compared to last year.

There has been a slight decrease in the total number of registrants who have had a fitness to practise concern raised about them, from 0.38 per cent of the Register in 2009–10 to 0.35 per cent in 2010–11.

In 2010–11, members of the public made up the largest complainant group, making up 34 per cent of cases. This represents an increase of three per cent compared to last year and is the first time that fitness to practise concerns raised by members of the public has made up the largest complainant group.

If a case fails to meet the HPC's standard of acceptance for allegations or the concerns raised are not about fitness to practise then the case will be closed. In 2010–11, 250 cases were closed without being considered by a panel of the HPC's Investigating Committee.

Decisions by Investigating Committee panels

In 2010–11, panels of the Investigating Committee made decisions in 512 cases. The case to answer rate for cases considered by panels of the Investigating Committee is 57 per cent, a decrease of one per cent from last year.

Fitness to practise concerns received from employers represent the highest percentage of ‘case to answer’ decisions.

In 2010–11, 199 fitness to practise concerns received from employers were heard by an Investigating Committee Panel (ICP). Of those, 82 per cent received a ‘case to answer’ decision.

In 2010–11, 145 of the cases considered by an ICP were received from members of the public. However, only 22 per cent of fitness to practise concerns received from members of the public resulted in a ‘case to answer’ decision at ICP.

There has been no change in the percentage of ‘case to answer’ decisions made in respect of concerns raised by members of the public since 2009–10.

Case to answer by complainant

Type of complainant	Number of case to answer	Number of no case to answer	Total	% case to answer
Article 22(6) / anon	66	26	92	72
Employer	163	36	199	82
Other registrant / professional	10	24	34	29
Other	6	6	12	50
Police	15	13	28	54
Professional body	2	0	2	100
Public	32	113	145	22
Total	294	218	512	57

Final hearings

Three hundred and fifteen cases were concluded in 2010–11, involving 300 registrants.

Hearings where allegations were well founded concerned only 0.15 per cent of registrants on the HPC Register.

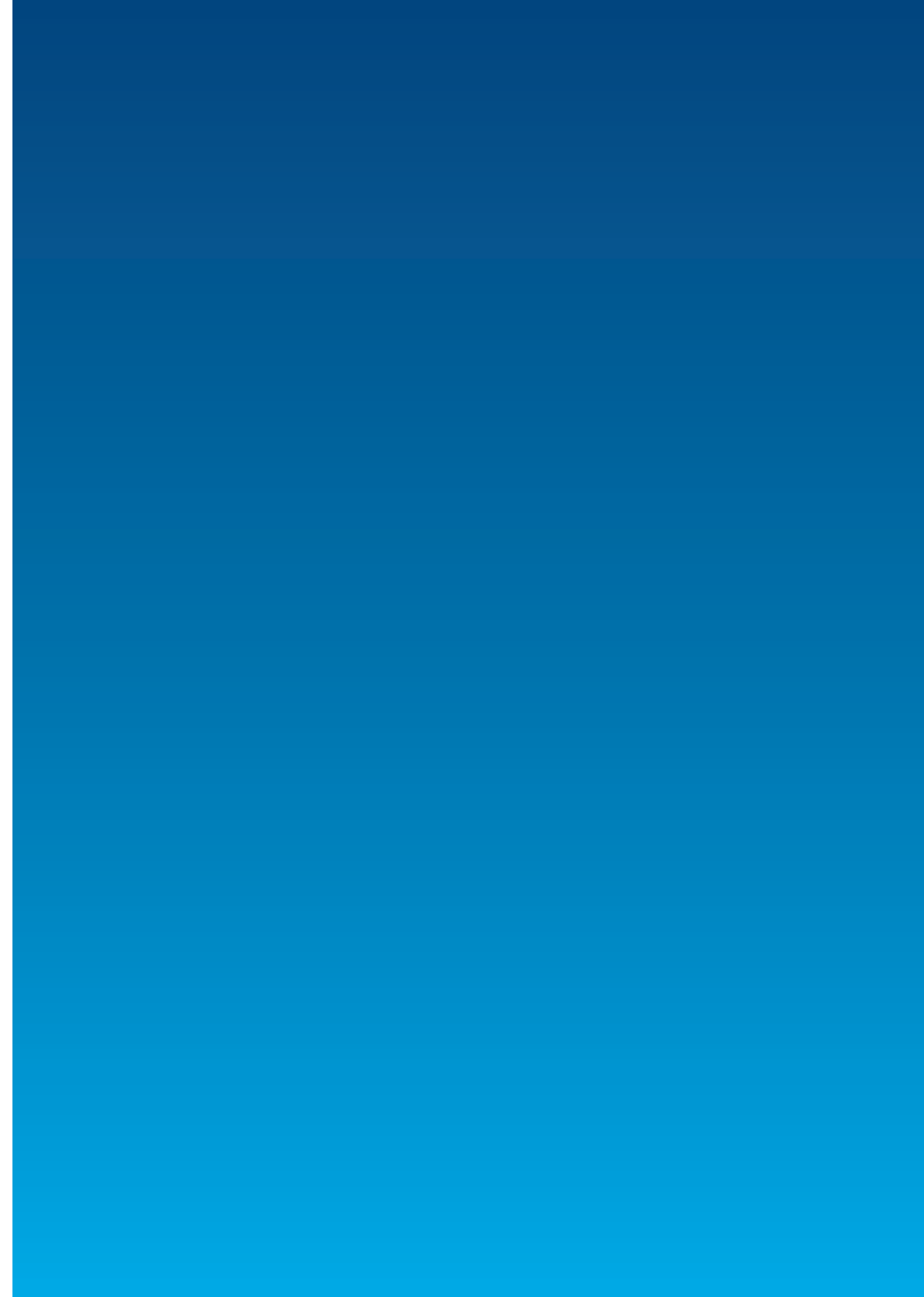
Decisions from all public hearings where fitness to practise is considered to be impaired are published on our website at www.hpc-uk.org. Details of cases that are considered to be not well founded are not published on the HPC website unless specifically requested by the registrant concerned.

Outcome by type of committee

Committee	Amended	Caution	Conditions of practise	No further action	Not well founded	Removed (incorrect / fraudulent entry)	Struck off	Suspension	Voluntary removal	Total
Conduct and Competence Committee	0	71	22	3	83	0	62	44	13	298
Health Committee	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	5	4	14
Investigating Committee (fraudulent and incorrect entry)	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
Total	0	71	26	4	85	1	62	49	17	315

This table does not include cases that were adjourned or part heard.

For further information and details regarding the work of the HPC's Fitness to Practise Department, please see the full Fitness to practise annual report 2011.



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