

## **Joint statement by the four UK Health Departments on the regulation of clinical physiologists**

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the position and to set out our plans in relation to the regulation of clinical physiologists and other healthcare science groups who seek statutory regulation, within the broader picture of both the White Paper *Trust Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century* and the new regulatory framework proposed under Modernising Scientific Careers.

The Health Departments in the four UK countries remain committed to the regulation of healthcare scientists. This was clearly set out in the White Paper *Trust Assurance and Safety: The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century*, (the UK White Paper) and specifically reinforced in *Modernising Scientific Careers; The Next Steps (MSC)* which stated that all outstanding matters relating to the regulation of aspirant groups<sup>1</sup> would be resolved as part of a separate consultation. The consultation document also indicated that separate proposals would be brought forward to put in place a new regulatory framework capable of capturing all healthcare scientists who need to be regulated.

It also signalled we would look to progress regulation for other groups in the healthcare science workforce in line with the recommendations of the forthcoming Extending Professional Regulation Report, ensuring that proposals provide risk based and proportionate solutions. As the reforms to regulators set out in the White Paper have progressed significantly, attention can now be given to the work surrounding the statutory regulation of those groups already agreed.

The Health Departments intend to develop, with stakeholders, proposals for the regulation of the healthcare scientist workforce. The work to inform the development of the publication of a draft Section 60 Order and accompanying public consultation document will start with members of RCCP in June. It should be recognised that the whole process can take up to two years to complete before opening a new register. This includes for example, a 3 month public consultation period, laying of Regulations in the Scottish and English Parliaments and is subject to any delay occurring as part of the Parliamentary process.

We look forward to a productive working relationship among all partners as we strive to achieve a satisfactory outcome, for the purposes of public protection and patient safety, within a challenging timescale.



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<sup>1</sup> Aspirant refers to the five groups of HCS, clinical perfusionists, clinical technologists, clinical photographers, maxillofacial prosthetic technologists and clinical physiologists who have been recommended by the Health Professions Council to the Secretary of State for Health in England for statutory regulation.