Welcome to Issues Brief.

Each week this email provides a summary of news and issues relevant to our external stakeholders. Areas covered include Department of Health consultations or reports, parliamentary questions or debates and news from other regulators and professional bodies. We also provide a round-up of news from within HCPC and relevant external media coverage.

Issues Brief can be found on the HCPC website at Publications > Issues Brief

1. Parliament

2. Regulation

3. Social Care

4. Health and Policy

5. HPC News round up

1. Parliament

House of Lords - Lords Written Answers

Lord Laird: To ask Her Majesty's Government when and why they intend to change the law so that doctors who have qualified in the European Union have their language skills tested to prove they can speak English adequately before they can practice in the United Kingdom; and why it is not currently possible to test for competence in English.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health (Earl Howe): In pursuit of the Government's objective to strengthen the arrangements to ensure that all doctors practising in England have sufficient knowledge of English, we are exploring options to amend the Medical Act 1983.

To read the full response online click here
Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards
Professor Sir Peter Rubin, Chairman, General Medical Council gave evidence on professional standards on Tuesday January 8

To read the uncorrected evidence click here

European Parliament: Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) meeting Wednesday 23 January
Read the draft agenda here

2. Regulation

NMC introduces voluntary removal process and consensual panel determinations to improve fitness to practise efficiency

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has approved arrangements for voluntary removal and new methods of determining sanctions in fitness to practise hearings: consensual panel determinations.

To read online click here and here

3. Social Care

Paul Burstow urges care home abuse penalties for owners

The former Minister is calling for companies who own care homes in England where abuse is carried out should face unlimited fines and criminal sanctions.

To read online click here

4. Health and Policy

DH appoints expert group to oversee strengthening of NHS Constitution

The proposed strengthening of the NHS Constitution will be overseen by an expert group chaired by Minister of State for Care Services Norman Lamb.

To read online click here
5. HCPC News round-up

HCPC employer events announced

Events in Glasgow and York on 19 and 20 March will provide practical information for anyone in a managerial or HR role working with HCPC-registered professionals within the NHS, local authorities or private practice.

To read online click [here](#)