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 the HCPC and relevant media coverage.

Issues brief can be found on the HCPC website > Publications > Issues brief

1. Parliament

Written Answers:

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints have been received about the Health and Care Professions Council or its predecessor in the last five years.

Dr Poulter: The information is not collected. The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), formerly known as the Health Professions Council, is an independent body accountable to Parliament. Its decision making and processes are overseen by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA) who undertake an annual performance review.

Health Committee: 9th Report - 2013 accountability hearing with Monitor

Monitor has an "exceptionally challenging" role, as the sector regulator for health services in England. In the Department of Health's view, Monitor is managing the transition to its new functions well, and is "well placed to go from strength to strength as an effective regulator in the health and social care system."

Read online here

2. Regulation
The General Optical Council (GOC) has today published the final version of its strategic plan for the next three years following a public consultation. The new strategic plan will come into force on 1 April.

Read online [here](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council announced its intention to consult on a possible increase of its registration fee to £120.

Read online [here](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) reacted angrily to the news that the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) will be consulting on an above-inflation £20 rise in registration fees.

Read online [here](#)

The Department of Health has published a consultation into the proposed introduction of a statutory duty of candour for health and adult social care providers.

Read online [here](#)

Once the legislation is in place in July, we will publish full guidance on the requirements, based on feedback from our consultation on the draft guidance.

Read online [here](#)