

Section 7.7 Further Comments

In conclusion, we continue to be concerned about the impact on our resources and operations in carrying out our statutory duties if many of the standards as currently drafted were made applicable to us.

As a UK-wide organisation, we contend that many of the requirements contained within the new standards would place an unreasonable and disproportionate expectation on us to provide a parity of service in Welsh in many instances both within and outside of Wales.

We contend that the standards which we have been assessed against as part of our standards investigation were not suitable for a UK-wide organisation as they were originally drafted for Welsh based organisations (including Welsh Ministers). The standards investigation process did not consider their impact on a UK-wide organisation which is self-financing and does not receive any central government funding.

If many of these standards were made applicable to us and had a significant impact on our resources we would be required to raise our registration fees to meet any financial shortfalls. We would not consider it a reasonable expectation that our registrants who reside in other parts of the UK should have to meet these additional costs. Such a situation would also be contrary to official UK Government policy which seeks to reduce the cost of regulation.

The following are some useful links to our Welsh language service provision / commitments under our Scheme.

- HCPC's Welsh Language Scheme (www.hcpc-uk.org/aboutus/welshlanguagescheme/)
- Welsh language webpages on HCPC website (www.hcpc-uk.org/cymru/)
- Some examples of bilingual press releases issued on the outcome of Fitness to Practise hearings (www.hcpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/pressreleases/index.asp?id=668; www.hcpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/pressreleases/index.asp?id=790; www.hcpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/pressreleases/index.asp?id=787)

- Use of Welsh in Fitness to Practise (FTP) proceedings practice note (www.hcpc-uk.org.uk/publications/practicenotes/index.asp?id=155)
- The Welsh versions of any standards which we have published upon request can be found on our website (www.hcpc-uk.org.uk/aboutregistration/standards/)
- Who regulates health professionals? (bilingual Welsh/English leaflet about health regulation) (www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/external/index.asp?id=478)
- How to raise a concern (Welsh language brochure) (www.hcpc-uk.org/publications/brochures/index.asp?id=32)