

17th May 2011

Marc Seale
Chief Executive Officer
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

Dear Mr Seale,

Re: Regulation of the Clinical Technologist Profession

At its Council meeting held on 6th October 2004 the HPC agreed to recommend the Clinical Technologist profession for regulation (Minute reference: 8.04/153 – 8.4 (i) page 5). At that time we understood that enabling work needed to be undertaken with the Department of Health before the required legal processes could commence with Government and the HPC. Subsequently, we have spent considerable time and effort attempting to further define the requirements for regulation including participating in the Modernising Scientific Careers project and working with you and others in now, apparently disbanded, UK-wide committees. Seven years have now passed since we were invited by the HPC to apply for regulation and, despite all our efforts, we seem no nearer to our goal.

The notes of the 10th February 2011 HPC Council meeting indicate that the Health and Social Care Bill gives the new HCPC powers to set up voluntary registers. It was also agreed to recommend Sports Therapists for regulation.

Can you indicate when Clinical Technologists can expect to be regulated and what the mechanism will be for transferring registrants from the Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists to an HPC or HCPC register? Failing that, is there any likelihood of the HCPC taking on our voluntary register?

Anecdotally, I have been informed that a number of our registrants and their managers have contacted the HPC asking about progress with Clinical Technologist regulation only to be told by your staff that they have never heard of Clinical Technologists and that the HPC has no intention of regulating the profession. Furthermore, at least one of our registrants has reported that an HPC staff member has said that we should not be using the term "Clinical" as that word is reserved for professions regulated by the HPC. (I understand that the HPC protects titles not words.) You will understand the consternation that this has caused.

With the passage of time many among our registrants are becoming disillusioned and questioning why they need to remain on our voluntary register as there appears to be no prospect of anything changing. It would be very helpful if you could give us some clarification regarding our position.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



James Y. Methven
The Registrar
Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists