

# ***Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists***

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Dear Registrant

## **VOLUNTARY REGISTER OF CLINICAL TECHNOLOGISTS – AN UPDATE**

We wrote to you in late 2006 updating you on progress with the regulation process. At that time we informed you of the consultation which had been started because of the Shipman Inquiry and the review of medical and non-medical regulation<sup>1,2</sup>. This consultation process has now been completed. Consequently the Government has published a White Paper, "Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals"<sup>3</sup>. This White Paper sets out a programme of reform to the United Kingdom's system for the regulation of health professionals. We advise you to study this document carefully.

As a result of this White Paper, representatives of the VRCT met with the Department of Health to discuss the next steps. What we heard was not entirely positive. Essentially the time that had previously been laid aside by Parliament to introduce and process the legislation for regulating new professions such as ours has now been assigned to the task of changing the way regulation works for all professions. Until such time as that exercise has been completed the regulation of new professions will be delayed. According to the Department of Health this means that it will be at least two, if not three years, before our profession is regulated by statute.

We were told this in February 2007 and were requested by the Department of Health not to publish this information until all of the aspirant professions had been consulted. All aspirant professions have now been informed and accordingly the Department of Health has published a statement explaining the situation. A copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Although the news of the delay is disappointing, please do not give up your registration as regulation will come eventually and when it does it will be to your considerable advantage to be a VRCT Registrant. Please note that the VRCT is a formal regulatory body. If your role requires you to be registered, membership of the VRCT will meet those requirements. You will note, from the Department of Health statement, that they plan to write to the NHS explaining the delay, urging employers to ensure that professional staff, such as Clinical Technologists, are on the appropriate voluntary register.

In the meantime we will continue to actively work towards regulation with the Health Professions Council. In order to do so we need your continued support. We would be grateful if you could raise the profile of the VRCT with colleagues who are not currently registered. It is to the benefit and credibility of the whole profession to have as many colleagues registered with the VRCT as is possible.

Recently the President of IPPEM, Dr Peter Jackson, wrote to the Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt, regarding the issue of regulation of Clinical Technologists. In the reply from Lord Hunt, Minister of State, it was made clear to Dr Jackson that there was no person at Department of Health or Government level NOT wishing Clinical Technologists to be registered: this in itself is really positive. Apart from the delay, the issues mainly revolve around funding. Perversely, the delay may well be beneficial to the aspirant professions: by providing additional time to find the required funding, thus enabling us to establish more programmes of education and training for all of the Clinical Technologist disciplines prior to statutory regulation. This is explained further in the statement from the Department of Health.

There are a number of other developments to report: Firstly, we have now published the Clinical Technology degree prospectus. This will be available on the VRCT section of the IPPEM website very shortly. If you wish to make comments on this document or other VRCT documentation please contact any member of the VRCT Assessors' Panel.

We have now established criteria for those wishing to apply to join the VRCT from overseas. Essentially only those individuals who have trained, or who are working, or have worked in the

United Kingdom as a Clinical Technologist, can apply to join the Register. All academic qualifications gained overseas must be verified by the Department for Education and Skills through UK NARIC<sup>4</sup> at the applicant's own expense.

In the near future we plan to increase the cost of application fees to £30 per application. This will apply to new applications and to those who give up their registration and then re-apply. This change will take place for applications received on or after 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007. Please note: the yearly renewal fee will remain unchanged at £10 per annum.

Finally, we report two changes to the membership of the VRCT Assessors' Panel. Mick Wingell, IET representative, has decided to retire and David Burrell, IPEM representative, has changed jobs and will no longer be working in the profession. The Panel wishes to thank them for all the time and hard work they have given to the VRCT and wishes them both well for the future. Mick has been replaced by Andy Fielder, a Medical Engineering Technologist. David's replacement has still to be announced.

Yours sincerely

The VRCT Assessors' Panel

Jim Methven, The Registrar  
Andy Fielder (IET)  
David Gandy (ART)  
Andy Iles (IPEM)  
Andy Mosson (ART)  
Stuart Slade-Carter (IET)  
Alan Thompson (IPEM)

**The Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists is administered by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine in partnership with the Association of Renal Technologists and the Institution of Engineering and Technology**



<sup>1</sup> "Good doctors, safer patients" available at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4137232](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137232) , Chief Medical Officer for England, Department of Health, London. (July 2006)

<sup>2</sup> "The regulation of the non-medical healthcare professions", available at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_4137239](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137239) , Department of Health, London. (July 2006)

<sup>3</sup> "Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals" available at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_065946\\_February\\_2007](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_065946_February_2007) , Department of Health, London. (February 2007)

<sup>4</sup> UK NARIC can be contacted at: <http://www.naric.org.uk/>