

Agenda Item 23

Enclosure 21

Paper ETC 21/03

Education and Training Committee

APPROVAL OF THE TESTS OF COMPETENCE

from the Executive

for discussion and approval

[text to follow]

EDUCATION & TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING

Update on Test of Competence

HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

1. Introduction

This document provides an outline explanation to ETC on the approval process for a Test of Competence and an explanation of the term "test of competence" as it is found in the OIC.

2. Legal Advice

2.1. Legal advice given to HPC executive about the approval of the Test of Competence states that:

- The term "test of competence" is not used consistently throughout the Order, for example Art16(2) provides that for the purposes of certain provisions in the Order it includes tests of English.
- In respect of grandparenting, Art. 13 requires an applicant to take "any test of competence" the E&TC may require and therefore not every applicant has to take the same test. However it would be the recommendation of the Executive that a standard test for each profession may be the simpler, more practical, solution for this process and would follow the process adopted by the International Registration procedures.
- The provisions of Part IV of the Order would allow a third party to conduct tests of competence (Art. 15(5)(d)) but the Council is not obliged to take that route and could administer its own tests, for example through HPC registrant assessors.
- Where the Council to choose to administer its own tests then it would not need to go through the formal approval process in Part IV. However, as a matter of good practice, the Council should document its reasoning and processes in respect of any "in-house" competence testing. This is the recommendation of the Executive to the Council. On the assumption that an in-house competence test would be approved, work has already commenced to build a framework. This work will be presented by Mrs Collins in her paper to the Committee.