

28 February 2019

Health and Care Professions Council response to the Department of Health and Social Care's consultation on 'Appropriate clinical negligence cover'.

1. About us

We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is a statutory regulator of health, social work and psychological professions governed by the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001. We regulate the members of 16 professions, including chiropodists / podiatrists and physiotherapists. We maintain a register of professionals, set standards for entry to our register, approve education and training programmes for registration and deal with concerns where a professional may not be fit to practise. Our role is to protect the public.

2. Response to the consultation

We do not have any concerns about the proposals, but would want to ensure that:

- The Department carefully consider the potential impact on our registrant groups, as the consultation paper currently focuses on doctors and dentists. Professionals registered with the HCPC work in a wide range of environments (self-employed, private practice, local authority, etc) and so do not always get professional indemnity cover from traditional state-backed schemes.
- Professionals affected are given adequate time to find new cover should they be required to.
- The Department provides clear communications and guidance to all professionals affected to ensure clarity on their obligations.

We have shared the consultation with the professional bodies who represent our registrants, and often provide insurance and indemnity cover to them. We had limited responses from those bodies, but those who provided a response confirmed their indemnity schemes would meet the Government's proposals.