



Therapist's Questions on Regulation - IFR Response

(applicable to UK only)

Question :

Is the GRCCT the only established National Register based on Regulation for Complementary therapies in the UK ?

Answer: Yes

Question :

The DOH supports the proposed alternative PFIH register.

Answer : False

In line with government policy for regulation, the DOH did give funding towards the establishment of regulation and a national register. The remit is to have a national register in order to regulate complementary therapists. The DOH is on record stating that if another register is established the therapist will make their own choice.

Question :

Reiki has remained in negotiation with the proposed alternative Federal Working Group (FWG/PFIH) register.

Answer : False

The lead body in Reiki formally withdrew from the process based on the outcome of the October FWG meeting.

Question :

Aromatherapy has remained in negotiations with the proposed alternative PFIH register.

Answer : False

The lead body in aromatherapy has withdrawn from negotiations with the alternative register.

Question :

Reflexology has remained in negotiation with the proposed alternative PFIH register.

Answer : False

The lead body in reflexology has withdrawn from negotiation with the alternative register.

Question :

The proposed alternative FWG/PFIH register will recognise all complementary therapists on an equal basis.

Answer : Unknown

The PFIH to date have not answered our question, "Will members of their integrated health professionals association be required to train in complementary therapies to the same level of competency as non medical professionals are required to attain ?"

Question :

Is it true that there is a possibility in the future, only medically qualified professionals will be allowed to practise complementary therapies within the NHS ?

Answer : Unknown.

Question :

Will CAM professionals in the future need an academic qualification before being allowed to practise within the NHS ?

Answer : Possibly.

The PFIH/FWG process for the proposed alternative Regulation Register suggests that the remit of their Education Board will be to set 3 levels of complementary therapy standards, including PhD.

Question :

Will the proposed alternate FWG/PFIH register promote Complementary therapy to the NHS ?

Answer : No

The CEO of the PFIH Kim Laveley, made a public statement in her keynote speech on July 5th 2007 at the Westminster Forum. Quote -

“I think it would be helpful at the outset to dispel a common myth about The Prince’s Foundation for Integrated Health. We do not exist to promote the use of complementary therapies or to argue for their use on the NHS” Unquote.

Question :

Which register will be cheaper for the therapist to join?

Answer :

GRCCT is the only established National Register for Complementary therapists in the UK and will continue to be cheaper to administer on three counts

- 1) It does not employ a range of highly paid managerial operations staff or hundreds of lay and professional council members;
- 2) It is not paying London office rents;
- 3) It does not have a complex administrative / validation process.

Question :

Does GRCCT have a solid sustainable Register?

Answer : Yes

Basically the GRCCT will have at the helm an Independent Regulator and

- a. council of lay members
- b. professional council made up from 50:50 lay and representatives from the lead body in each profession.

Question :

Does GRCCT have disciplinary policies and procedures in place ?

Answer : Yes

All GRCCT policies are robust, accountable and sustainable.

Question :

Was the GRCCT launched by the Reflexology Forum?

Answer : No

This is misinformation communicated by those who have clearly demonstrated a lack of understanding of the complicated process of registration and regulation. The fact that the majority of reflexology organisations are in full support of the GRCCT may have led in some part, to the confusion demonstrated by those who are unclear.

Question :

Does the GRCCT need the support of any specific organisation in order to exist?

Answer : No

GRCCT is a voluntary register (government have instigated this process). It exists to protect the public.

Question :

I’m confused. What’s the difference between Professional associations, Lead bodies and the GRCCT ?

Answer :

Professional Associations REPRESENT and SUPPORT the therapist.
Lead Bodies write and develop unified regulatory standards for the therapy
The GRCCT exists solely to protect the PUBLIC.

Question :

I'm already registered. Why do I need to join another body?

Answer :

There are many databases which **promote** complementary therapists throughout the UK, i.e. professional associations, NHS Directory and others. These are akin to private clubs who set their own criteria; acceptance standards for membership vary and the difference is not generally understood. It should be remembered also that these organisations exist to REPRESENT and SUPPORT therapists.

The GRCCT is a single UK REGULATOR which exists to PROTECT the PUBLIC. It is a one stop shop to which the public can turn, with confidence, for Independent advice or to make a complaint. They can also be assured that the therapists on THE Register are all qualified to the SAME basic standard, regardless of where they trained and their competence and fitness to practice is assessed annually.

Question :

Can therapists, who are members of a professional association which has not given information or advised them which Register to sign up to, still register with the GRCCT ?

Answer : Yes

The GRCCT is an Independent National Regulatory Register

Question :

Can the GRCCT Registrants use the letters Registered with GRCCT or similar wording indicating national registration ?

Answer : Yes**Question :**

In the future will members of the public and the medical profession be able to search the GRCCT database for those members who are listed on the register ?

Answer : Yes**Question :**

I'm a multi disciplined practitioner in Reflexology, Massage, Aromatherapy and Reiki. Can I register with the GRCCT in all these therapies ?

Answer : Yes**Question :**

I would like to register but am worried about the amount of time and effort required to present to the GRCCT mountains of paperwork, portfolios and case studies for each of the therapies that I want to register in.

Answer :

For GRCCT Registration the only evidence required is FULL membership, with insurance to practice of any of the professional associations listed on the GRCCT and where your qualifications have previously been assessed by that organisation.

If in any doubt about your qualification to join the GRCCT please contact the GRCCT direct.

Question :

I'm a member of several professional associations. I'm getting conflicting advice and information. Some say I should register now – others say, wait. I don't understand what I'm waiting for..... please help !!

Answer :

**The GRCCT is already launched.
The proposed alternative FWG/PFIH register will be launched in April 2008.**

Some PA's are advising their members to wait until then before making a decision about which register to join. As the result of these internal policies therapists are communicating with us, saying (like you) that they are more confused than ever and are fearful and anxious about regulation. Regrettably, this could result in them not registering with either.

Question :

Do I have to Register? What will happen if I don't ?

Answer :

Nothing – this is Voluntary Regulation.

Question :

So what's the purpose of Regulation ?

Answer :

The purpose is to protect the public. The Government has decided that anyone working in the public domain must be regulated. "Dangerous" professions are regulated by "statute" – which means their title is protected and those professionals **can NOT legally work unless they're Registered with the relevant Regulator.**

The CAM professions were advised by the House of Lords in 2000 to VOLUNTARILY regulate themselves.
Our profession now has a Regulator, the GRCCT.



Question :

As it is voluntary – what will happen if we all choose not to register ?

Answer :

We will be VOLUNTEERED – probably within the next 5 years! The Government want us to be regulated. They have invested public funds into the process. It is answerable to the public. **If we don't do it they will do it for us.** Then the least of our worries will be "which Regulator should I register with ?"

Question :

I have been told that if we don't register voluntarily, we should expect statutory regulation in 5 years, if that's true and if so why are some professional associations advising us to wait ?

Answer : Not known

All regulatory models must be non profit making and self financing. If therapists do not register they will fail. **ALL of them.** If therapists want to have a say in the model of regulation which protects the public as well as preserves the integrity of the profession and the professional, they should perhaps consider standing up and be counted by taking responsibility and registering **ASAP.**

The GRCCT Website can be found at :

<http://www.grcct.org>

