



Regulation

what is it ?



If you have asked yourself the above question, you are not alone, as the question seems to be on the lips of every therapist, not just the lips of the Reflexologist.

IFR cannot promise that this will be a dynamic response. In general, regulation and regulator seem to be boring subjects but we will do our best to give the facts with a hint of humanity.

What is Regulation?

Regulation is a government directive. Regulation is in place to protect the public, give the public confidence and make the profession more secure.

Statutory Regulation is an act of parliament. Nurses, doctors, physiotherapists and others are statutory regulated and it is therefore illegal to use the title or work in one of these professions unless registered.

Since the horrific actions of Harold Shipman, the Manchester GP and the Shipman inquiry, the government has become focused on regulation of the health professions.

Regulation and registration of complementary therapists will need to happen on a voluntary basis or it will be forced upon us by law. Regulation and registration gives those Complementary therapists who are listed on the public register GRCCT as being regulated, an advantage over those who do not or cannot go on the register.

IFR members are professionally qualified to go on the Reflexology section of the national register for complementary therapists, GRCCT (General Regulatory Council Complementary Therapies).

This process of a professional association and a regulatory body is repeated in a similar form throughout the governance of medicine, education and law.

The **British Medical Association (BMA)** is the professional association representing doctors. Its remit is similar to the IFR in that where the IFR represents Reflexologists and student Reflexologists the BMA represents doctors and student doctors. It provides advice, insurance, continuing professional development, support and representation in the event of action or complaint.

The **General Medical Council (GMC)** is a regulator. Its duty is to protect the public interest by keeping up-to-date registers of qualified doctors and providing an over-arching complaints process. The **General Regulatory Council for Complementary Medicine (GRCCT)** performs the same function for complementary therapists. The aim is to ensure that under advice from the professional associations all registered practitioners maintain the standards which the public and the medical profession expect.

Doctors, nurses, teachers and lawyers are all statutory regulated. This means they do not get a choice, the law states they must be registered to practice their profession.

For complementary practitioners the process is voluntary but there has never before been an appropriate regulator in place. The GRCCT is such a profession-supported body which fulfils all the government requirements as a regulator. This is why we are recommending our members to join the National Register.

In order to make some everyday sense of regulation let's make an analogy by using a household name "Corgi".
"**Corgi**" register is for gas engineers/fitters who work with **gas**.

GRCCT is for Complementary therapists such as Reflexologists, who work in the complementary therapy field. GRCCT is less well known than “Corgi” and without the catchy title but the two are similar in that they are Regulators.

If a member of the public calls a “Corgi” registered operative they can be reasonably assured that he/she is properly trained, insured and accountable for their actions.

If a patient/client or a member of the medical profession calls a **GRCCT** registered therapist they can be reasonably assured that he/she is properly trained, insured and accountable for their actions

The only difference is that “Corgi” is a statutory Regulator.

GRCCT – The profession of complementary therapy has chosen to regulate itself. With Reflexology, for example, it will not be illegal to call oneself a Reflexologist if not on the register but if enough proper Reflexologists are GRCCT registered it will become as much of a guarantee as “Corgi”.

As an IFR trained therapist you will be entitled to go on the GRCCT register.

Finally

1. Regulation is about protection of the public. It is the fitness of (or the ability of) the therapist to practice safely which is being regulated NOT the therapies.

2. **The GRCCT is NOT an “alternative”**. It is **THE** Regulator - the **ONLY** legitimate Regulator of complementary therapists in the UK.

The GRCCT Website can be found at :

<http://www.grcct.org>

