

28 August 2013

Dear Ms Roberts

Thank you for your letter dated 20 August 2013. I appreciate the support you show both by letting me and the Board know your concerns and ideas, and the extent to which you have clearly thought these issues through. You raise a number of useful, operational points eg on revalidation and complaints issues, and I am asking staff to look at those separately as we go forward.

Over the next few months NRCPD will be taking a number of major decisions on how it can best strengthen its ability to support an agenda around 'public protection' which hopefully will continue to progress our underlying aim of achieving statutory recognition for the register. As we do this we will be consulting widely with a number of stakeholders focussing particularly on service users and registrants, and will be holding face to face meetings as part of this process.

The Board has always sought to make sure it has an appropriate balance of skills in line to ensure we are well supported and advised in relation to the strategy and policy work. I recognise it is never possible to constitute a Board which covers all interests, hence the reason behind creating a Practitioners Group to add to the skills and knowledge of Board Members. However I am struck by the fact that neither Board Members nor the Practitioners Group have at times been on the same wavelength as Registrants. Though any Register which claims to have public protection as its aim needs to have a majority of non-professionals on its governing council, the outcome of the options appraisal we are undertaking is likely to pick up on governance and engagement with stakeholders as well as its strategy.

I will ensure that all Board Members have sight of your letter, so that as we engage in further consultation over the way forward the issues you raise will form part of the Board's consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Huw Vaughan Thomas'.

Huw Vaughan Thomas
NRCPD Chair