

NRCPD

The National Registers of Communication Professionals
working with Deaf and Deafblind People

27 April 2017

ASLI, NUBSLI, VLP
c/o Unite House
128 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8TN

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2017. I will respond to your points in the order raised in your letter.

We agree that promotion of the NRCPD registers is important. It is one of our key objectives and reflected in our Strategic Plan which, as you know, was published in January this year. Under the heading "Communication and Stakeholder Engagement" we set out the objective as follows:

"Gain wider recognition as the voluntary regulator for communication and language professionals, promoting the importance and value of regulation and the use of registered practitioners".

We are aiming to promote the registers through attendance/networking at appropriate conferences, seminars, workshops and events; and by giving presentations on the work of NRCPD to stakeholders including representative bodies, service users and students. This is in addition to holding our regular meetings with the professional associations, either through the Practitioners Forum or on an individual basis. So far this year I have given presentations at a BDA workshop and to students at Heriot Watt. Further activity in this area is being planned throughout the year. Your suggestion that we set up a Consumers Forum is something we can explore further. In respect of your comments about D/deaf Board members, I can confirm that two of our lay members, including the Chair, are deaf and that registered communication support practitioners are always present at Board meetings.

Protection of the public is our key purpose as a voluntary regulator. We do this by setting standards for entry to the registers, requiring registered practitioners to abide by our Code of Conduct, and investigating complaints about alleged breaches of the Code and taking appropriate action. This is in common with other UK regulators, both statutory and voluntary. I am not sure what you mean by "alternative ways to safeguard the public", perhaps you could clarify? We do appreciate that the Code of Conduct needs to be kept under review and we have made a commitment in our Strategic plan to do so, thereby ensuring that it is fit for purpose and supports robust and transparent complaints procedures. The Board is considering publishing more statistical information about the complaints and concerns we receive later this year.

In respect of NRCPD's financial reporting, I have referred this matter to the Board for consideration in due course.

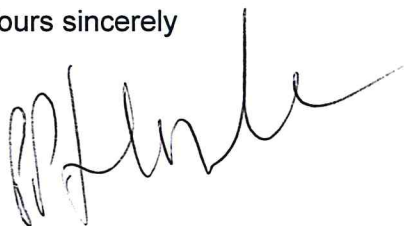
NRCPD has only two members of staff: the Director and Registrar, and the Registration Service Manager. To my knowledge, the Director/Registrar/ CEO role for most UK regulators is undertaken by someone who is not part of the profession which is regulated. This reflects the separation of function between regulators and professional bodies, and the government's long held view that self-regulation is not in the public interest.

We entirely agree with your comments about accessibility and, in particular, the current content of NRCPD's website. This is on our agenda and we will be exploring how we can do this in the context of the resources available.

Finally, I would like to suggest that we organise a meeting which brings all three organisations together, to continue the conversation. We are very keen to promote positive engagement and to develop a dialogue. We are also, of course, mindful that the registers support six different professions, and we will also be pursuing a similar dialogue with each of these.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Peacock', written in a cursive style.

Alan Peacock
Director and Registrar

NRCPD