

06 May 2005

Dear Colleague

The Results of CORH's consultation with the homeopathy profession and other interested parties

As you will be aware, CORH has recently undertaken a significant consultation with all identifiable members of the homeopathy profession and a range of other interested parties on its proposals for the future regulation of the homeopathy profession. The proposals were produced in the document entitled '*Facing the future-the challenge for the homeopathy profession*'. (available on www.corh.org.uk)

The Response

We have been delighted with the response to the consultation – both in terms of the number of replies and also the helpful and positive suggestions made to improve our proposals. Not everybody agreed with everything, of course, but at least people have had the opportunity to let us know what they felt! 5939 documents were despatched and 1073 responses received. The large majority of responses received were clearly from practising homeopaths. The overall analysis shows that CORH has received a significant mandate from the profession to move forward on its proposals.

It is now Council's wish that the whole analysis of the consultation document be placed on the CORH web-site for access by all those interested.

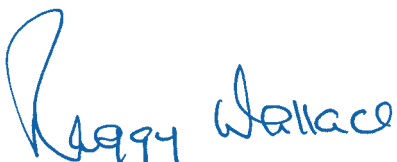
Next steps

CORH's four working groups have now been tasked with incorporating the feedback received into more refined policy proposals to be agreed and distributed as soon as practicable. Changes are also being made to the CORH constitution for consideration at the AGM on 10 June 2005. These changes will underpin the transition phase transmuting the present CORH Council into the eventual new register and regulatory body. A more detailed programme of future activity will also be agreed and publicised at the AGM.

Thank you

To those of you who took part in this important consultation process I thank you for your time and interest.

With all best wishes



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CORH 'Facing the Future – The Challenge for the Homeopathy Profession'

Response to consultation 1. Introduction

This paper sets out the responses to the CORH consultation document entitled 'Facing the Future – The Challenge for the Homeopathy Profession (CORH 2005) which was disseminated in January 2005, with a closing date of 11 March 2005. It describes the way in which the analysis was dealt with, together with an assessment of the quantitative and qualitative responses. It also offers comments and questions for Council to consider, particularly in terms of the next steps.

In view of the significant work undertaken by the WGs in analysing responses to their specific sections, the analyses are included in full as annexes to this paper, as follows:

Annexe 1 – Quantitative analysis

Annexe 2 – Registration

Annexe 3 – CPD

Annexe 4 – Conduct and Ethics

Annexe 5 – Accreditation

Annexe 6 – General Questions not linked to an area of WG activity

Annexe 7 – consultation distribution list

2. Overall comment

In any consultation of this size, one would expect a variety of responses. Where respondents agree with what is being proposed, they usually just answer the questions asked. Where people strongly disagree with what is being said they will usually write to say so! Whilst, unsurprisingly, a number of people felt strongly on individual points, overall there was a very definite sense of support for the work of CORH. Many individuals wrote explicitly to congratulate CORH on the work undertaken. Given the large number of responses, the number of letters of general dissatisfaction was amazingly low (c 3). The conclusion to be drawn is there is strong support for CORH's proposals. The many constructive and helpful comments that have been made will help to inform the way forward..

3. Response analysis – method

The responses were analysed in the following way:

Yes/no answers and multiple choice questions were analysed by Hans Schrauder, using some Windows software

Responses to the specific questions emanating from the four Working Groups were individually analysed by a range of members from the WGs concerned.

Responses to the general questions were analysed by Peter Mitchell

This collated response paper has been prepared by Maggy Wallace.

Such an approach was designed to be as economical, objective and efficient as possible, in order to ensure maximum exposure of Council members to the responses and, at the same time, to reduce the potential for any allegations of bias/vested interest.

4. Responses analysis – facts and figures

5739 documents were despatched.

1073 responses were received (including one response representing the unified and identical views of 50 people).

The document was widely distributed both amongst the profession and to others who were identified as being interested parties. It was accepted that a significant number of those so identified were unlikely to respond, but that this was an excellent opportunity to publicise the current activity within homeopathy.

The majority of responses were from individuals, who were not asked to identify themselves. The impression is that the majority of responses were from registered homeopaths. A limited number of organizations chose to respond on headed paper.

Given the number distributed, the overall response rate was approximately 20% although the comparative response rate from registered homeopaths only is assumed to be higher.

5. Response analysis – quantitative responses

The quantitative responses are enclosed in full as Annexe 1 to this paper.

Comment

*It can be seen that the majority of the Y/N responses are significantly in favour of CORH's proposals. Whilst the details of the policy-specific proposals are considered in the WG's response, there are 3 significant issues to pick out from this analysis. First, is the support for a **consideration of statutory regulation** at some stage in the future (67%) ; second, is the **support for a shadow NRRB** (83%) ; and third, and perhaps most importantly for CORH, support for the proposal that **CORH should become the shadow NRRB** (79%). Such a response gives CORH a credible mandate from the profession for moving forward.*

6. Response analysis – qualitative responses to specific areas of policy

Comment

Given that there was support for the majority for the CORH proposals in relation to individual areas of policy for Registration, CPD, Ethics, it would seem appropriate that the WGs look at the comments in detail in terms of incorporating them into formal policy decisions to be agreed by the Shadow Body and then publicised against an agreed time-frame. AWG have already proposed specific action which is highlighted in Section x.

7. Response analysis – general questions not included elsewhere

See Annexe 7

8. Next steps - Recommended action

Council is invited to consider the following proposals:

That the new name of the new body (NRRB) should be The UK Council of Homeopaths (UKCH) (see response to Q1, Annexe 6)

- 2 That a new constitution for the shadow NRRB be drawn up for consideration and agreement at the AGM. The new constitution would move CORH into the position of becoming the shadow UKCH (if that is the name agreed).
- 3 That the responses on Registration, CPD and Ethics are referred back to the relevant WGs for incorporation into revised proposals, where appropriate, for approval and publication by the Council, as soon as possible.

That Council supports the work of the AWG in developing a workable programme for accreditation (ie Accreditation Steering Group, Accreditation Officers, Visiting Panels etc) and testing this with a number of early implementation sites given that it would be possible for the AWG to move forward on this in a transitional phase (between CORH and the NRRB) provided that CORH delegates this function to an Accreditation Steering Group with the authority to grant accreditation.

Any other matter relating to the response to consultation.

Maggy Wallace, *Chair CORH*