

Accredited Registers

Impact assessment information sheet

July 2021

1. National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002

1.1 The Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (we) are required by Section 25H of the 2002 Act to carry out an impact assessment before we accredit a voluntary register.

Accreditation of voluntary register: impact assessment

1.2 Before accrediting a register, the Authority:

- must make an assessment of the likely impact of doing so
- must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

1.3 For that purpose, the Authority must have regard to such guidance relating to the preparation of impact assessments as it considers appropriate.

1.4 An assessment under this section must, in particular, include an assessment of the likely impact of accrediting the register on:

- persons who are, or are eligible to be, included in the register
- persons who employ persons who are, or are eligible to be, included in the register
- users of health care, users of social care in England and users of social work services in England.

1.5 For the purposes of subsection (3) the Authority may request the person who maintains the register to provide it with such information as it specifies; and if the person refuses to comply with the request, the Authority may refuse to accredit the register.

1.6 The Authority may publish any assessment it makes under this section.

In deciding whether to accredit a register under section 25G, the Authority must have regard to its assessment under this section in relation to the register.'

1.7 This guide has been drawn up with reference to HM Government Regulatory impact assessment template for government policies. Impact Assessments are generally required for interventions that affect the private sector, civil society organisations and public services and are of a regulatory nature.

2. What is an Impact Assessment?

2.1 An Impact Assessment is an assessment of the impact of a policy proposal.

2.2 For the Accredited Registers programme, this means assessing the potential impact of a decision to accredit a register.

2.3 Accredited Registers may implement such changes in advance of assessment and approval at their own discretion.

2.4 The extent, depth and detail of the Impact Assessment and analysis should be proportionate to the scale of costs and benefits, outcomes at stake, sensitivity of the proposal and the time available. Impact Assessments we carry out will include:

- A description of who will be affected by a decision to accredit, including service users, organisations and businesses
 - A description of the costs and benefits.
- 2.5 It may include quantification of the effect where we estimate this is likely to be substantial.
- 2.6 It will also include an analysis of the impact of accreditation on persons with protected characteristics, in compliance with our duties under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

3. Consultation and publication

- 3.1 When an organisation holding a voluntary register applies to us for accreditation, we will announce it on our website and seek feedback through our 'Share Your Experience' process. We will ask for information about the likely impact of accrediting the organisation and will take that information into account. We will ask the organisation seeking accreditation to provide us with their views on the likely impact and we will also seek views from other stakeholders.
- 3.2 For those organisations we accredit, we will publish final Impact Assessments on our website. We will also publish the updated Impact Assessments after accreditation has been renewed.

4. Impact Assessment process

- 4.1 We will begin our Impact Assessment when an organisation first applies for accreditation. This will be informed by evidence gathered for our initial assessment against Standard 1, which includes weighing up the benefits, and risks of the services offered by registrants.
- 4.2 When a Panel makes a decision about whether to grant accreditation to a new Register, or renew it for an existing Accredited Register, it will first consider the impacts of doing so, with regards to the Impact Assessment document. The Panel will consider whether they are satisfied that it represents a fair and proportionate assessment of the impact of the decision to accredit or not to accredit.

Document Control

Version Control

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Version	Status	Description of Version	Date Completed
1.0		New Guidance	5 July 2018
2.0		Updated guidance to align with revised assessment approach	29 July 2021