

Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

23 June 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

Regulatory performance of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)

I am writing to update you on the HCPC's performance in terms of its fitness to practise work following our previous letter dated 21 August 2024.

Our 2024/25 performance review

On 27 June 2025, we will publish our annual review of the HCPC's performance for 2024/25, covering the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. I attach a copy of our report, which is under embargo until publication.

The HCPC has met four out of five fitness to practise standards this year. We have been encouraged by the progress the HCPC has made since it accelerated its fitness to practise improvement programme in January 2021 and we recognise the work that has gone into making these improvements. The HCPC recognises that there is still more work to do, and we will continue to monitor the HCPC's ongoing programme of improvement.

However, the HCPC still takes too long to resolve fitness to practise cases and the number of open older cases in the system has increased again this year. The HCPC has therefore not met our standard relating to the quality and timeliness of investigations. The HCPC has not met this Standard since 2015/16, and we are concerned about the impact significant delays are having on public protection and public confidence.

Following issues we highlighted in our last performance review, the HCPC has enhanced its controls and strengthened its oversight of high-risk cases handled by its external legal providers. This year, we saw evidence of the controls working as intended and were assured that the HCPC has adequate processes in place to identify and prioritise high-risk cases. As a result, the HCPC met our Standard relating to the management of high-risk cases.

Next steps

We will continue to engage constructively with the HCPC as it takes its improvement work forward. During 2025, we will assess in detail the impact of the HCPC's improvement work to see how this has affected performance in fitness to practise, particularly in relation to case progression, the management of high-risk cases and the support provided to parties involved in proceedings. We will keep you informed of progress.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this or would like to discuss further.

I have copied this letter to Christine Elliott, Chair of the HCPC. I am writing in similar terms to the Clerk of the Health and Social Care Committee and counterparts in the devolved administrations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Corby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caroline Corby
Chair