

Statutory Declarations

The existing Standing Orders of the Health Professions Council require members of the public who wish to make a complaint against a Registrant to obtain a Statutory Declaration before the investigation is started.

- A Statutory Declaration is obtained from a solicitor.
- Obtaining a Statutory Declaration takes both time and money and for those unfamiliar with legal processes may be intimidating.
- The process acts as a clear barrier to those seeking to make a complaint against a HPC Registrant.
- The Nursing and Midwifery Council does not require a Statutory Declaration.
- The counter argument is that the requirement means that frivolous complaints are not made against Registrants.
- Organisations such as NHS Trusts are not required by the HPC Standing Orders to make Statutory Declarations.
- The existing Standing Orders were inherited from the Council for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine.
- Legal Advice has been taken from Michael Caplan of Kingsley Napley and it is permissible to change the Standing Orders.

The Health Professions Council is requested to amend its Standing Orders and remove the requirement for members of the public who wish to make a complaint against a Registrant to obtain a Statutory Declaration before an investigation is started.