

DRAFT

The Rt Hon John Reid MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2NS

..... 2003

Dear Secretary of State

Re: Regulation of Clinical Perfusionists

At a meeting of the Health Professions Council on Wednesday 17th September 2003 it was decided that the Clinical Perfusionists should provisionally be recommended for regulation.

Article 3 (17) of the Health Professions Order 2001 states:

(17) The Council may -

- (a) make recommendations to the Secretary of State concerning any profession which in its opinion should be regulated pursuant to section 60(1)(b) of the Health Act 1999

The reasons for a provisional recommendation are three-fold.

Firstly, the Health Professions Council identified further work on establishing independently-accredited training and assessment for both UK and overseas trained perfusionists for work in the UK which the Society of Clinical Perfusionists needs to address before its current voluntary regulatory system is ready to meet statutory requirements.

Secondly, the Health Professions Council anticipates that a number of aspirant groups will seek regulation over the next four years. A number of the groups within healthcare science may have broad similarities and clinical perfusionists are likely to be one of these.

Thirdly, the parliamentary timetable will probably mean that changes to the Health Professions Order 2001 Rules relating to Healthcare Scientist aspirant groups will not be made until spring 2005.

The Health Professions Council will therefore make a final recommendation on all aspirant groups in the Healthcare Scientist area in late 2004 for those groups who are ready for statutory regulation then and in 2006 for those who will take longer to develop a voluntary system. We expect that clinical perfusionists will be in the first group, assuming they have addressed the above issues.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Ros Mead, Head of Non-Medical Regulation at the Department of Health in Leeds.

Yours sincerely

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar

cc Ros Mead, Department of Health
Ian Curle, Secretary, Society of Clinical Perfusion Scientists of Great Britain and Ireland