

Consultation on paramedic SET 1
Policy and Standards Department
Health and Care Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as Chair of the Allied Health Professions Federation, to respond to the HCPC's Consultation on the threshold level of qualification for entry to the Register for paramedics.

The AHPF supports the College of Paramedics' view that the entry level requirement for paramedics should be changed to degree level. This would bring it in line with the entry requirements for the rest of the allied health professions and recognise the changing nature of the profession and training.

The AHPF agrees with the College of Paramedics that the requirements as laid out in the current SET are no longer fit-for-purpose. The AHPF fully supports the rationale for change as set out in the consultation and that any change will not affect existing registered paramedics or students already undertaking approved education and training programmes.

The AHPF also asks the HCPC to take account of the Quality Assurance Agency for higher education (QAA)'s re-published Subject Benchmark Statement for Paramedics in 2016. There the benchmark standards were defined as the threshold for bachelor's degree with honours (FHEQ level 6/SCQF level 10).

The AHPF also supports the College of Paramedics' view that a stepped approach of a diploma-level entry followed by further consultation sometime later over degree-level entry, is no longer appropriate. The PEEP report was almost four years ago, the profession and training have moved on since then and a stepped approach would probably create more work for higher education institutions than if the degree-level were to be adopted nationally.

Yours sincerely



Parmjit Dhanda

AHPF Chair

Annex: The AHPF

The Allied Health Professions Federation (AHPF) is made up of twelve professional bodies representing Allied Health Professionals (AHPs). The AHPF provides collective leadership and representation on common issues that impact on its members' professions:

- The Association for Music Therapy (BAMT)
- The British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT)
- British Association of Dramatherapists (BADth)
- The British Dietetic Association (BDA)
- British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO)
- British and Irish Orthoptic Society (BIOS)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
- The College of Paramedics (CoP)
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT)
- Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR)
- The Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists (SCP)

There are more than 170,000 AHPs working within a range of surroundings including hospitals, people's homes, clinics, surgeries, the justice system, local authorities, private and voluntary sectors and primary, secondary and tertiary education.

AHPs focus on consistent, person-centred, preventative and therapeutic care for children and adults. They are accredited and trustworthy professionals performing a crucial function in the NHS and social care. The breadth and depth of AHP skills and reach make them ideally placed to lead and support transformative changes.