

### Horizon Scanning

<b>1.</b>	<b>Background</b>
1.1	At the meeting of the Board held on 7 February 2017 it was agreed that horizon scanning should be a standing item for all future Board meetings.
1.2	Sections 2, 3 and 4 below include the range of issues confirmed as at 29 April 2025.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Generic workplace/employment issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of the Home Based Working policy</li> <li>• The Worker Protection Act (amendment of Equality Act 2010)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Wider political environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current geopolitical crisis</li> <li>• Cyber security risks</li> <li>• Impact of cost of living increases</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Healthcare Sector-specific issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Care Systems White Paper and the prospects for integration of complementary and mainstream healthcare</li> <li>• Social prescribing</li> <li>• Personal Health Budgets/Self Directed Support</li> <li>• Standards for the delivery of online training and assessment</li> <li>• February 2023 published outcome of 2022 government consultation on <i>'Healthcare regulation: deciding when statutory regulation is appropriate and how powers to introduce and remove professions from regulation might be used in the future'</i></li> <li>• GMC analysis of responses to their consultation on the rules to implement regulation of Anaesthesia Associates and Physician Associates</li> <li>• Professional Standards Authority consultation on good practice guidance documents in support of regulatory reform.</li> <li>• Draft legislation on Ending Conversion Practices in Scotland</li> <li>• AAPP Order 2024 No.374</li> <li>• Professional Standards Authority Good Practice guidance on Accepted Outcomes</li> <li>• Professional Standards Authority plan to publish version 3 of Right Touch Regulation in October 2025</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Current position</b>
5.1	The PSA guidance on Accepted Outcomes was published on 24 June. They have been asked whether the use of Accepted Outcomes will become available to holders of Accredited Registers in addition to the statutory regulators.
5.2	Suggested additions to section 4 are
	(i) Equality & Human Rights Commission consultation on updated Services Code of Practice. The Code has been updated in response to the UK Supreme Court ruling that sex means 'biological sex' for the purposes of the Equality Act. In their response to the consultation on 25 June the PSA said
	<i>"We would like to see the guidance give a clearer steer on how and when regulators can request information about birth sex and how the judgment intersects with the provisions of the Gender Recognition Act. For health and care professionals, the guidance needs to spell out in more detail how they can ensure care is delivered in a way that meets the new legal definition and protects dignity and privacy. Clarification is also required on what the judgment means for the provision of same-sex care, and whether patients have a right to know the sex of the professional caring for them. These key points need addressing to enable</i>

		<i>regulators and professionals to apply the ruling in a way that is both comprehensive and fair”.</i>
	(ii)	PSA Regulatory Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Group, membership of which may be extended to representatives of the Accredited Registers Collaborative.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Members’ action</b>	
6.1	Members are asked to discuss and agree any additions or changes to the issues listed in sections 2, 3 and 4 above.	

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