

AHCS Policy

# Management & Resolution of Non-serious Fitness to Practise Cases by Consent

24 June 2021

Version: 1.0

Review date: 24 June 2023

Doc ref: #080

## Introduction

The Academy for Healthcare Science

operates a voluntary registration process for Healthcare Science practitioners, setting standards for its registrants in respect of conduct, ethics, competence and proficiency.

The AHCS Fitness to Practise (FTP) rules are based on those of statutory registers for healthcare professionals and allow for a range of sanctions against a registrant who is deemed not to have met the required standards, or where a serious allegation about them has been proven.

However, the AHCS is not a statutory body and does not have the same remit as a statutory register to directly restrict or suspend an individual from practising. Nevertheless, it can, through its Healthcare Science (HCS) Registration Council, apply sanctions and make recommendations about an individual or, in serious cases and following due process, suspend or remove a registrant from its register giving reasons for its decision (identified by an FTP Panel). The registrant has the right of appeal to an Appeal Panel appointed by the AHCS Regulation Board.

If a registrant is cautioned, suspended, or removed from the HCS register, all relevant third parties, including their employer and professional body if they have one, will be informed and the decision of the Academy published on the AHCS website.

When an individual is removed from the register, the information also will be shared with other members of the Accredited Registers Collaborative as per the Information Sharing Agreement and the registrant's data will be retained confidentially on file by the AHCS for a period of seven years.

These are the links to an individual's practise which the Academy has and needs to use as levers to protect patients and maintain public confidence in registered Healthcare Science Practitioners.

## Policy for Non-serious FTP Cases by Consent

When a complaint or concern about a registrant is brought to the Academy's attention, whether by the registrant or a third party, an initial determination of the matter will be undertaken by the AHCS Registrar to establish whether it should be considered as a Formal Allegation against the registrant according to the criteria in the Fitness to Practise rules.

The AHCS Fitness to Practise rules will be applied immediately if the facts are disputed, evidence is required or the individual's fitness to practise is likely to be impaired. However, being mindful of a need for proportionate regulation, if the matter is:

- i not considered a serious matter (as defined in the Fitness to Practise Rules);
- ii unlikely to have affected the registrant's fitness to practise; and
- iii if the registrant takes responsibility, exhibits regret for their actions and makes an apology;



the case will be managed by the AHCS Registrar and /or AHCS Head of Registration Services on behalf of the HCS Registration

Council, provided the registrant has consented to an appropriate programme of remediation, either with their employer or their professional body, which will be followed up and reviewed by the Academy through the HCS Registration Council after an agreed period.

In such cases, the registrant will remain on the HCS Practitioner register with no sanction against their register entry pending the outcome of the follow up review.

If the outcome of the follow up review is not accepted by the HCS Registration Council, the case will be subject immediately to the Fitness to Practise rules and an Investigating Panel will be established to consider the details of the case.