

David Pyle appointed to Hearing Aid Council

13.30 12 May 2009

New Member joins Council as a consumer representative

The Secretary of State has appointed David Pyle as a Member of the Hearing Aid Council. David has a hearing loss and will serve as a consumer representative, replacing Prof. Norma Brooke CBE who passed away last year.

David served as a lay member of the General Optical Council where he Chaired the Disciplinary and Education Committees. He was recently appointed a lay member of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Chairing the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee. In addition, he has been appointed an Independent Member of the Metropolitan Police Authority Misconduct Panel. David's career, mostly spent in education, included an eight year spell as Pro Vice Chancellor of Manchester Met University.

Commenting on the appointment, Chris Hughes, HAC Chairman, said:

"I am delighted to welcome David to the Hearing Aid Council. His considerable regulatory experience will be a tremendous asset in our final year".

On joining the HAC, David Pyle stated:

"It is a very interesting time to be joining the HAC. I look forward to working with my fellow Members to make sure the transfer to the Health Professions Council is a success and the public are protected throughout".

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Notes:

1. The Hearing Aid Council is the UK statutory registration and regulation body for hearing aid dispensers and their employers. The Council was founded following the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968 (as amended). It is illegal for someone to act as a dispenser of hearing aids in the UK unless that person is registered with the Council or in training to become registered.

2. The Hearing Aid Council has a statutory duty to publish standards of education and training for individuals wishing to be registered. It also has a duty to set standards of professional conduct and to consider complaints made against dispensers and their

employers.

3. In 2008, the Health and Social Care Act included provision for the dissolution of the Hearing Aid Council and the transfer of its regulatory function to the Health Professions Council. The Health Professions Council is the UK statutory registration and regulation body that regulates thirteen healthcare professions, including speech and language therapists, physiotherapists and radiographers. The transfer is due to be completed by 31st March 2010.


4. The Council has around 1500 registered dispensers and 300 registered employers. It typically receives around 75 complaints a year about those registrants of which around 10 per cent tend to be upheld by the Council's Disciplinary Committee.

5. David Pyle's appointment takes effect from 1 April 2009.

6. For more information please contact Stuart Holland:

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