

**Annual Report of the
Joint Validation Committee
of the
health professions council
and
The College of Radiographers**

April 2003 – July 2004

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THE JOINT VALIDATION COMMITTEE OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL
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1. INTRODUCTION

The Joint Validation Committee JVC was established in 1993 by the College of Radiographers and the Radiographers Board at the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine to streamline procedures and avoid duplication of activities associated with validation, periodic review, and annual monitoring of pre-registration programmes in both diagnostic and therapeutic Radiography. This included approval and accreditation of programmes by the College and the Radiographers Board.

The Health Professions Council was established on 1st April 2002 following parliamentary approval of the Health Professions Order (2001). From the 9th July 2004 the Health Professions Council will be introducing its new procedures for approving education and training. The joint arrangements for course approval and monitoring will cease from that date and the College and the HPC will then fulfil their individual roles and responsibilities separately

The HPC has established an Approvals Committee which reports to the Education and Training Committee. Together, these are in the process of establishing Standards of Education and Training and the Approvals Process.

The College of Radiographers has established an Approval and Accreditation Board which reports to the College Board of Trustees. It is developing an accreditation framework encompassing all radiography education. The College of Radiographers published "The Approval and Accreditation of Education Programmes and Professional Practice in Radiography; Policy and Principles" in May 2004.

Both the HPC and the College expect the transition from joint working to separate working to proceed smoothly and at the final meeting of the JVC, ongoing issues were identified to draw to the attention of parent bodies to facilitate the seamless transition to the new arrangements. The JVC is pleased to note that there are no significant outstanding issues to report on at the handover juncture.

This report is, therefore, the final report of the JVC and covers the last fifteen months of operation, from 1st April 2003 to 9th July 2004.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE JVC

Membership to the Joint Validation Committee arises from nominations from the College of Radiographers and the Health Professions Council. The membership to the end of the 2003/2004-year was as follows:

Mr Stephen Boynes	(College)
Mrs Kathy Burgess	(HPC)
Mrs Lesley Forsyth	(College)*
Professor Anthony Hazell	(HPC lay member)
Mrs Julia Henderson	(College)
Professor Rosemary Klem	(HPC)
Miss Maureen McPake	(College)
Mr John Newton	(HPC)
Miss Lorraine Nuttall	(HPC)
Mrs Julie O'Boyle	(HPC)
Mr Richard Price	(College)
Mrs Stephanie Wilson	(College)*

*Mrs Lesley Forsyth replaced Mrs Charlotte Beardmore and Mrs Stephanie Wilson replaced Mr William Rea as College of Radiographers representatives in July 2003.

Secretariat Mrs Mary Embleton

Advisors Mr Thomas Berrie (Health Professions Council)
Professor Audrey Paterson (College of Radiographers)

3. CHAIR

At the first meeting of the session held on 10 April 2003, Mr Richard Price was elected as Chair and John Newton as Vice-Chair.

4. MEETINGS

Five ordinary meetings were held during the period of this report. The number of meetings attended by each member was; Mr Stephen Boynes 5; Mrs Kathy Burgess 5; Mrs Lesley Forsyth 1 of 4; Professor Anthony Hazell 3; Mrs Julia Henderson 3; Professor Rosemary Klem 5; Miss Maureen McPake 5; Mr John Newton 5; Miss Lorraine Nuttall 4; Mrs Julie O'Boyle 4; Mr Richard Price 4; Mr Billy Rea 1 of 1 and Mrs Stephanie Wilson 3 of 4.

5. REGISTER OF VALIDATORS

During the year, no changes were made to the register of validators.

At the end of its constitutional period of the JVC representation on the register of validators was as follows:

- Diagnostic Clinical 11
- Diagnostic Academic 14
- Therapeutic Clinical 9
- Therapeutic Academic 8

The JVC is very grateful for all the hard work undertaken on its behalf by validators over the past eleven years.

6. JVC WORKSHOP FOR VALIDATORS

The committee planned to hold a workshop for validators in Autumn 2003 to enable validators to be briefed on new systems under the HPC and the evaluation of Modernising Education initiatives. The HPC indicated that they did not wish to be involved at that time and had suggested a delay in the workshop until Spring 2004. The Committee decided that it preferred to keep the workshop on the original date as it was felt that given other changes and developments the workshop was opportune.

The professional body was in agreement with the Committee and it was agreed to widen the day to include postgraduate validators/approvers and to invite HPC visitors/partners who were not otherwise included in any of the categories.

The workshop was held on 20 November 2003 and focussed on the 'changing environment'. The programme was decided by collaboration between the JVC and the professional body, however, the professional body managed arrangements.

7. JVC LINK PERSON

Since September 1997, the JVC has appointed a named representative from the committee to each education provider. This continues to be an important mechanism for continued contact between the JVC and education centres during the intervals between validations/reviews, particularly where increases in commissions result in the need for JVC approval of suitable additional clinical placements.

The JVC considers that, as the role of the Link Person is largely advisory, it may not be appropriate for that person to participate as a JVC representative at periodic review.

The 'Link Person' continued to review the annual course monitoring report in order to assess the qualitative data and put the information into the context of the individual institution. A short report is produced for the JVC and if there are issues of particular concern the Link Person or the JVC Chair will pursue the issue with the institution. The Link Person's report, together with comparative quantitative data from the computer analyses, constitutes a confidential report specific to the education provider which is attached to the summary report on the annual monitoring returns.

8. MONITORING SCHEDULE

The report to education centres on the outcomes of annual monitoring by the JVC of returns received for the 2001/2002 academic year was circulated in August 2003. The draft report for the 2002/2003 academic year was approved at the final meeting of the JVC

The annual monitoring schedule revised for the 1998/1999 data collection, reducing the amount of information collected using the proforma, was used with slight modifications for collecting data relating to the 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. Additional data were obtained via the Society of Radiographers Membership System.

Additional fields have now been created in the membership database to facilitate JVC Monitoring. There continues to be problems with information sent to the College being incomplete and on outdated forms. **It is essential that institutions ensure the correct forms for student registration, renewal and withdrawal are used and properly completed.**

The JVC has circulated the monitoring schedule proforma to HEIs to collect the data for the 2003/2004 as its last year of operation. Summative data for the UK will then be compiled and passed to parent bodies.

9. INCREASES IN STUDENT NUMBERS

The JVC was concerned that some centres were seeking to register greater numbers of students with the College of Radiographers than their JVC approval allowed. While the JVC does not wish to restrict recruitment onto programmes in times of a national shortage of radiographers, there is an agreed process to follow to seek approval for recruitment of additional students. The JVC and its parent bodies recognise the pressure that some education centres are under to accept additional commissions; unfortunately this is often too late in the year and the planning cycle to ensure that additional resources are in place for the beginning of the academic year.

10. REVALIDATION AND PERIODIC REVIEW

The JVC was involved in the periodic review/ revalidation of 13 existing honours degree programmes in 8 Higher Education Institutions (Canterbury Christ Church University College, Glasgow Caledonian University, Kingston University/St George's Hospital Medical School, The Robert Gordon University, Sheffield Hallam University, St Martin's College, University of Portsmouth and University of Wales College of Medicine), including assessment of associated clinical placements. It was also involved in the validation of the part-time routes to 5 Diagnostic Radiography and 3 Therapeutic Radiography Honours Degree Programmes.

The JVC was involved in the validation of 2 new PgD programmes, with eligibility for state registration in Therapeutic Radiography (Sheffield Hallam University and Queen Margaret University College) and an interprofessional programme modernising education with bridging to the BSc (Hons) degree at University of Salford

JVC representatives also attended validation events for two new Diagnostic Radiography honours degree programmes, one at the University of Exeter and the other a four year work based in-service programme at Anglia Polytechnic University.

Additional clinical placements associated with undergraduate programmes at other institutions were approved using the policy on approval and accreditation of clinical placements adopted in December 1996.

11. JVC HANDBOOK AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

The JVC published the final version for the JVC Handbook in April to incorporate all the policy documents published since the October 1999. This will provide a basis for the ongoing development of policies by the College of Radiographers and the HPC.

12 HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

The Shadow Health Professions Council, appointed in 2001, was established as the Health Professions Council (HPC) on 1st April 2002.

HPC Rules had been dispatched to Privy Council on Monday 16 June and had come into effect at 8.30am on Wednesday 9 July 2003.

The new register was opened on 9 July 2003 with all policy documents including Standards of Proficiency freely available on the HPC website. HPC requested the JVC to continue in its current form while Professional Liaison groups were set up to consider:

- The Standards of Education and Training
- Approvals Process
- CPD

The HPC consulted on its proposed Standards of Education and Training and Approval process March – May 2004 and its new procedures become operational on 9th July 2004 when the joint arrangements with the professional body are terminated. However, it realised that it may be several years before all aspects of the Order in Council are implemented.

13 COLLEGE OF RADIOGRAPHERS

The College of Radiographers has set up an Approvals and Accreditation Board and invited the JVC Chair and Vice-Chair to become members. It has invited the radiographers on the JVC to be involved in discussion on the role of the Board in course approval and monitoring after the JVC ceases to exist.

14 OTHER MATTERS

The JVC discussed whether a BSc degree without honours should continue to be recognised or should the BSc (Hons) degree remain as the appropriate threshold qualification for registration. It concluded that as the profession begins to be organised within the 'four tier model' with levels from assistant to consultant, it is essential that the profession articulates the level of award for each tier and affirms the standard and level compatible with entry to the professional (practitioner) level.

The current situation is that the JVC expects that the Bachelor of Science Degree with honours is the minimum requirement for registration as a radiographer and hence to the practitioner tier.

Both parent bodies accepted the recommendations

1. That the current position as stated in '*Meeting the challenge; the JVC response*' be confirmed formally with awards at Honours and Masters level being the appropriate levels for entry to the profession.
2. BSc awards without honours are not appropriate for entry to the profession and centres be advised that they should be withdrawn at the first opportunity.

15. CONCLUSION

The JVC has once again experienced an active and interesting year and has continued to respond positively to the changes in policies and procedures within higher education and the NHS. Monitoring of the recruitment and retention of student radiographers and encouragement of a proactive approach to initiatives within the professional and higher education sector has continued.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Chair would like to express his sincere appreciation and gratitude to all members of the JVC for their continued support and sustained efforts to complete JVC business promptly and often within very tight deadlines particularly when this was in addition to the demands of their normal daily workload.

The Committee would like to thank the wider professional group, who represented the JVC on validation and review panels. Their contribution to the JVC's agenda was very important and much appreciated.

Our gratitude also goes to Thomas Berrie and Audrey Paterson for their well informed advice and guidance through yet another year that has seen major developments that impact on our profession.

Thanks are also due to those members who left office during the year; Mrs Charlotte Beardmore (College) and Mr William Rea (College).

Finally, sincere thanks to the JVC Secretariat Mary Embleton and Michele Landau without whose assistance the work would not have been completed.

Richard Price
Chair, JVC
July 2004