

Mr Martin Harvey
Chair of Executive Council
Institute of Chiropractors and Podiatrists

By email only

3 April 2020

Dear Martin

I hope you are keeping well.

Thank you for your recent open letter, and for bringing these issues to our attention. As the regulator for 15 diverse professions working in the NHS and privately, we recognise these are challenging and uncertain times for all concerned.

Our focus has been to provide as much flexibility in our regulatory approach as we can, alongside advice and guidance so that professionals on our Register are able to focus their efforts on the challenges ahead. We have received many queries about how we will continue to regulate in light of COVID-19. These include questions relevant to those working in private practise, for example changes to practise or delivering care in different ways. We will continue to provide as much up to date information and support as we can to facilitate our stakeholders in this fast changing situation.

I note your comments about podiatrists offering their assistance to the NHS; we too have been encouraged by the response from our registrants. The NHS is coordinating workforce needs across the four nations, and have created this [survey](#) so people can be deployed appropriately. Your members may find this information useful.

I recognise your concerns for the future of private podiatry practise. I am aware of workforce initiatives led by Health Education England designed to support vulnerable professions, like podiatry. If you feel this may be helpful, I would be happy to facilitate conversations with the relevant lead for this work.

Yours sincerely



John Barwick
Chief Executive and Registrar