

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE GENERAL CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL (CORONAVIRUS) (AMENDMENT)
RULES ORDER OF COUNCIL 2020

2020 No. 607

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and Social Care.

2. Purpose of the instrument

- 2.1 The Order contains amendments to the General Chiropractic Council's (GCC) Rules. The amendments ensure that the GCC's processes can continue during the period of the Covid-19 pandemic. These are permanent rules changes and will still be in force once the Covid-19 pandemic is over.
- 2.2 Specifically, this order is made under the Chiropractors Act 1994 amending the rules contained in the General Chiropractic Council (Investigating Committee) Rules 2000 and in the General Chiropractic Council (Professional Conduct Committee) Rules 2000.

3. Extent and Territorial Application

- 3.1 The territorial application of this instrument is the United Kingdom.
- 3.2 The territorial application of this instrument is the United Kingdom.

4. Legislative Context

- 4.1 This instrument is being made in accordance with the GCC's powers, as set out in the Chiropractors Act 1994, to make rules in accordance with its core regulatory functions. Further detail as to the various enabling provisions used is set out below.

5. Policy background

What is being done and why?

- 5.1 This instrument is being made in order to allow the GCC to adapt its current operating procedures to respond to the Covid-19 emergency and to align with one of its broader aims on better use of technology.
- 5.2 The instrument will allow the GCC to amend its rules on how it can contact registrants when a fitness to practise or professional conduct allegation is made against them. Current rules provision requires registrants to be contacted by registered post or recorded delivery, using a postal address the chiropractor has registered on the professional's register. The rules changes will enable the GCC to use electronic mail to contact registered chiropractors when a fitness to practise or professional conduct allegation is made against them. Registered chiropractors will be asked to register an email address with the GCC's registrar to enable this form of communication to take place.

6. European Union (Withdrawal) Act/Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union

6.1 This instrument does not relate to withdrawal from the European Union / trigger the statement requirements under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act.

7. Consolidation

7.1 The GCC will inform its registrants of the rule changes.

8. Consultation outcome

8.1 A consultation on the rules changes has not taken place.

9. Guidance

9.1 Guidance is not required to be published.

10. Impact

10.1 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

10.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on the public sector.

10.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because the SI relates to measures to maintain the GOC's regulatory operations.

11. Regulating small business

11.1 The legislation does not apply to activities that are undertaken by small businesses.

12. Monitoring & review

12.1 The GCC will keep the new rules under review.

13. Contact

13.1 Kathryn Flynn at the Department of Health and Social Care Telephone: 0113 2545967 or email: Kathryn.Flynn@dhsc.gov.uk can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

13.2 Mark Bennett at the Department of Health and Social Care can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

13.3 The Minister of State (Minister for Care) at the Department of Health and Social Care can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.