

UK Council for Psychotherapy- Publication of decisions policy

Policy Statements

- 1.** This document sets out UKCP's policy on the publication of decisions made in accordance with UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process.
- 2.** UKCP exists to promote and maintain the profession of psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic counselling for the public benefit. This includes promoting high standards of education, training and practice. Registrants accept that registration with UKCP means that UKCP can investigate registrants' practice and conduct, through UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process.
- 3.** UKCP aims to ensure that the public is protected and that public confidence in the profession it regulates is maintained. In order to achieve this UKCP investigates complaints and concerns raised against its registrants under the Complaints and Conduct Process.
- 4.** As part of its commitment to protect the public and ensure public confidence in those it regulates UKCP will publish particulars of any decisions made by an Adjudication Panel, Appeal Panel or Interim Order Panel (where the Interim Order Panel has made an Interim Suspension Order). UKCP reserves the right to redact sensitive information in exceptional circumstances regarding the registrant or witnesses to the complaint when it does not interfere with the public interest.
- 5.** In all cases where a decision is redacted, the Chair of the relevant panel should review and agree the proposed redactions before publication. Adjudication Panels are independent so UKCP has no authority to amend or re-draft the determination other than to redact information which may be considered sensitive. Information may be considered sensitive if it refers to material which might lead to the identification of a complainant or vulnerable witness, mental or physical health issues regarding the registrant, or other private information regarding the registrant which UKCP deems is inappropriate to publish.
- 6.** In order to protect confidentiality UKCP does not publish information relating to the health of a registrant. This information is treated as confidential regardless of whether it is heard by an Adjudication Panel, Appeal Panel or Interim Order Panel.
- 7.** UKCP is subject to legislation in relation to information governance including the current legislation relating to data protection.

Key Principals

- 8.** UKCP is committed to transparency and openness in relation to its policies, processes and procedures, and to providing a fair and balanced complaints process. At the same time, it recognises its responsibility to protect the confidentiality of its registrants during an investigation or if it is found that a complaint is not well founded.

9. UKCP seeks to act consistently in the publication of information about the decisions it publishes and will ensure that any disclosure of information is lawful, proportionate, fair and accurate.

Publications of Decisions

10. Details of all decisions made by an Adjudication Panel or Appeal Panel in which breaches of UKCP's Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct are upheld are published on UKCP's website.

11. Details are normally published on the website 28 days after the conclusion of a hearing. If an appeal is lodged by either party within that timeframe the decision will not be published until the appeal has been concluded.

Interim Suspensions

12. If an Interim Suspension order is made, an acknowledgement will be listed on the UKCP website immediately following the decision.

13. The listing will remain on the UKCP website until the complaint has been concluded, or the order expires or is ceased by decision of the panel.

14. Full details of decisions made by Interim Order Panels are not published. However, UKCP will publish the terms of any order imposed. If the Interim Order is terminated or varied, UKCP will publish the new terms of the Interim Order in the case of variation or remove all reference to the Interim Order in the case of termination of the order, as soon as practically possible.

List of registered psychotherapists and psychotherapeutic counsellors on UKCP's website

15. UKCP's holds an online register of psychotherapists, psychotherapeutic counsellors, and a specialist register for psychotherapists qualified to work with children and young people. UKCP offers an online Find a Therapist service for people wanting to choose a UKCP registered practitioner. Any decision by an Adjudication Panel or an Appeal Panel in which breaches of the Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct are upheld, or an interim suspension is made, will be indicated by a marker on a member's individual register record that links to the details of the decision. If an individual has chosen to be on Find a Therapist, UKCP will note the individual's Find a Therapist record that a sanction is in place with a link to details of the decision.

16. Any decision by an Adjudication Panel or an Appeal Panel in which breaches of the Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct are upheld that does not impose a time-limited sanction will be published for a period of twelve months. Time-limited decisions will be published for the duration of the sanction as specified by the panel.

17. Decisions in which a registrant has been removed from UKCP's Register will remain on UKCP's website for a period of five years from the date the decision takes place.

18. Details of any previous decisions that concluded that the Registrant was not suitable to remain on the UKCP register without any restrictions or conditions may be disclosed by UKCP upon request.

Forthcoming Hearings Page

19. The following information is published:

- a) The registrant's name;
- b) The town/county where the events that are subject to the allegation took place, or the town/county in which the registrant resides; and
- c) Date and venue of the hearing.

20. The names of any witnesses will not be published.

21. If an application for the hearing to be held in private is granted, UKCP will not publish the location of the hearing

Transcripts

22. All hearings are recorded. Written transcripts are generally not produced at the conclusion of a hearing. The parties to a complaint, that is the UKCP (or their representative) and the registrant who is subject to the allegations, can ask for a copy of the recordings made during a hearing and have them transcribed at their own expense.

Other

23. UKCP reserves the right to amend or change this policy when it determines it necessary