



**UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process
Complaint Hearing**

**18 – 19 August 2025
22 September 2025 (Panel in private session)
21 October 2025
ONLINE**

Name of Registrant:	Joshua Bowler (HIPC)
Heard by:	Adjudication Panel
Panel Members:	Gill Madden (Chair) Hilary Brown (HIPC) Ian Roberts (UTC)
Legal Assessor:	Jon Whitfield KC, Doughty Street Chambers
Panel Secretary:	Bethany Rees
UKCP Presenting Officer:	Lucy Chapman, Great James Street Chambers
Registrant's Representative:	Unrepresented and not present on 18 – 19 August Present but not represented for part of 21 October
Charges found proved:	1, 2 ,3, 4, 5, 6, 7a, 7b, 7c, 8a, 8b, 8c, 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, 9e, 9g
Charges found not proved:	9f
Panel Decision:	Misconduct found proved. The Registrant's fitness to practice is currently impaired.
Sanction:	The Registrant shall be removed from the UKCP Register

Detail of allegations

That being a UKCP registered psychotherapist since 2007, you, Joshua Bowler (the Registrant):

1. Between approximately 2008 and 2019, you were in a therapeutic relationship with Client A.
Denied. Found proved.
2. During your therapeutic relationship with Client A, you did not maintain appropriate time boundaries by allowing sessions to overrun.
Denied. Found proved.
3. In or around 2011 or 2012, Client A told you that she loved you, wanted to be in a relationship with you and/or undressed in front of you. You did not end the therapeutic relationship.
Denied. Found proved.
4. In or around 2012 or 2013, during one or more sessions with Client A, you hugged and kissed her.
Denied. Found proved.
5. In or around 2012 or 2013, during a session with Client A, you fondled her breasts and put your hands between her legs.
Denied. Found proved.
6. In or around 2012 or 2013, during a session with Client A, you told her that you needed to stop hugging and kissing her unless the relationship was going to become sexual because you could not control yourself, or words to that effect.
Denied. Found proved.
7. In or around June 2019, during your final sessions with Client A, you:
 - a. told Client A she was the most extreme case of virgin and whore split you had encountered;
Denied. Found proved.
 - b. told Client A she must not tell anyone about the therapeutic relationship **and/or inferred that by using words to that effect;**
Denied. Found proved.
 - c. justified your actions at paragraphs 2 - 5 above by saying that she could not have handled you rejecting her and that your approach had been successful.
Denied. Found proved.
8. Your actions, as outlined in paragraphs 2 - 7 above, were:
 - a. inappropriate; and/or
Denied. Found proved.

- b. unprofessional; and/or
Denied. Found proved.
 - c. sexually motivated.
Denied. Found proved.
9. The behaviours set out in paragraphs 2-8 above are in breach of UKCP's Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct (2009) (the Code). In particular, you:
- a. Failed to act in Client A's best interests, thereby breaching paragraph 1.1 of the Code;
Denied. Found proved.
 - b. Failed to treat Client A with respect, thereby breaching paragraph 1.2 of the Code;
Denied. Found proved.
 - c. Engaged in a sexual relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 1.4 of the Code;
Denied. Found proved.
 - d. Abused and/or exploited your relationship with Client A for your own sexual and/or emotional gain, thereby breaching paragraph 1.3 of the Code;
Denied. Found proved.
 - e. Harmed Client A, thereby breaching paragraphs 1.8 and 1.9 of the Code;
Denied. Found proved.
 - f. Failed to take all reasonable care, taking into account the time that had lapsed since therapy ended, before entering into a personal relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 1.6 of the Code;
Withdrawn by UKCP
 - g. Failed to challenge questionable practice in yourself and report potential breaches of the Code to UKCP, thereby breaching paragraph 10 of the Code.
Denied. Found proved.

For the reasons set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.

Documents

The Panel had placed before it the following documents:

- A service bundle on behalf of UKCP amounting to 64 pages
- A principal bundle on behalf of UKCP amounting to 66 pages, hereafter referred to as C1;
- Written submissions on behalf of the Registrant amounting to 5 pages, hereby referred to as R1;

- Additional written submission dated 29 August 2025 on behalf of the Registrant amounting to 1 page (included in email correspondence), hereby referred to as R2

Hearing

1. The complaint was heard under the UKCP Complaints and Conduct Process 2022, and the Panel considered the alleged breaches of the UKCP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct 2019 (the Code) and Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct 2009 (the Code).

Preliminary Matters

2. The Panel considered the following preliminary matters:
 - a. Holding part of the hearing in private
 - b. Proceeding in the absence of the Registrant
 - c. A third issue (amending the allegations) is dealt with in the body of this document.

Proceeding in the Absence of the Registrant

3. Hearing in private

(i) Submissions

Ms Chapman submitted that the application to proceed in the absence of the Registrant should be heard in private since it involved the consideration of matters pertaining to his health.

(ii) Decision regarding matters in private

The Panel determined that information concerning the Registrant's health should be heard in private.

(iii) Reasons

In coming to the above decision, the Panel took account of the advice provided by the Legal Assessor. It recognised the public interest in holding professional disciplinary hearings in public, balancing this against the private interests of any witness or Registrant regarding their health and welfare. The Panel was of the view that the Registrant's private interests concerning his health outweighed the public interest and that information concerning his health should not be made public. The Panel determined that the public interest was met by the fact that other aspects of the case including consideration of the allegations would be in held public.

4. Proceeding in absence

(i) Submissions

- (a) Ms Chapman applied to proceed in the absence of the Registrant. She first submitted that the Registrant had been notified of the hearing in accordance with the requirements of the UKCP Complaints and Conduct Process 2020 (the 'CCP'). Ms Chapman submitted that the Panel had a discretion to proceed in the absence of the Registrant and that it was fair and in the interests

of justice to do so. She said that any prejudice to the Registrant was outweighed by the public interest and the interests of the witness and the regulator. She referred to the familiar cases of *Adeogba [2016] EWCA 162*, *Jones [2002] UKHL 5* and *Hayat v GMC [2014] EWHC 1477*, and thereafter provided detail concerning the Registrant's health and his assertion that the case should be vacated.

- (b) Ms Chapman said that the above cases provided guidance as to the criteria that must be met for a case to be adjourned on the basis of the Registrant's ill health. These included that there must be evidence of a lack of fitness to participate, the evidence must give particularity to the condition relied upon and why it prevented participation. It was for the Registrant to provide this and the onus was upon him to prove that he was unfit to participate. In addition she said that the Panel should look at the case overall and consider the public interest. The cases warned against a culture of adjournment. Ms Chapman also referred to the case of *Levy v GMC [2011] EWHC 2351*, in relation to the type of medical evidence that should be provided by the Registrant. She said it was to be provided by a practitioner familiar with the Registrant who could provide a medical opinion regarding the particular medical difficulty he was experiencing. Ms Chapman said that the above cases emphasised that the effect of stress upon someone's ability to participate was not an unusual application and that to accede to such an application the Registrant would have needed to provide details of circumstances resulting in more stress than that arising simply as a response to the litigation itself. She observed that an adjournment would be unlikely to help someone suffering from stress because it would simply recur at any re-listed hearing.
- (c) Ms Chapman took the Panel through documentation which set out the history of communication between the Registrant and UKCP. She said the Registrant's initial position in June [REDACTED] he would respond within the required timeframe. He did not expect to attend the hearing and did not ask for special arrangements. Subsequently he said he could not respond before autumn but provided no explanation for this. Ms Chapman took the panel through the attempts made by UKCP in June, July and August to engage with the Registrant and understand his difficulty. He said that he could not respond until mid to late autumn but provided little or no explanation. She said that the Registrant now simply asserted he had not had sufficient time to respond albeit he had provided written submissions. He had provided no medical evidence that met the requirements as set out in the above-mentioned cases. She observed that the Registrant appeared to be well enough to travel internationally.
- (d) Ms Chapman said the documents provided by the Registrant included an email in June [REDACTED] and a subsequent photograph. In July he said that he had undergone a procedure [REDACTED] when he was in [REDACTED] but this had now resolved. In July he said [REDACTED]

that the [REDACTED] hospital recommended he had treatment. Also in July the Registrant said [REDACTED] and asked for the hearing to be vacated. He said he would not engage and would not attend the hearing. No verifiable medical evidence was provided.

(e) On 21 July [REDACTED] consultant [REDACTED] provided a letter regarding a possible procedure and reaction and the need for an appointment to assess the Registrant. He refers to a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He states that the potential for stress is to be avoided and that any hearing will contribute to that stress and any consequent risk. Ms Chapman pointed out that no [REDACTED] had been provided to the UKCP and, [REDACTED] was merely interpreting a report of that scan. He had not seen the Registrant recently and speculated that 'If we accept the scan at face value', stress may be a risk. She pointed out that at no stage does [REDACTED] say the Registrant is unfit to participate. Rather he suggests he could assess the Registrant when he is in [REDACTED] but it may take up to six months. Finally, Ms Chapman said the Registrant now stated [REDACTED] but he provided no evidence for this.

(f) Ms Chapman submitted that the case should proceed in the absence of the Registrant. He has not said he wanted to attend. There was no evidence that an adjournment would secure his participation or attendance. To date there was no evidence to support his assertion that he could not attend save for a vague reference to the potential for stress and a timeframe for assessments in relation to his health that was essentially guesswork. Ms Chapman said that adjourning would cause unfairness to the complainant and the UKCP and was contrary to the public interest in the timely disposal of a serious case. She submitted that the welfare of the complainant and protection of the public were important considerations. Finally Ms Chapman said that the Registrant had not appointed an advocate and as such he was not in a position to cross-examine the complainant, it being a case of alleged sexual impropriety. The evidence could be tested by the Panel and that would be done whether the Registrant was present or not.

(ii) Decision on proceeding in absence

The Panel determined that the proceedings should continue in the absence of the Registrant.

(iii) Reasons

(a) The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor and first noted that any decision to proceed in the absence of the Registrant was not to be taken lightly. However, the Panel came to the conclusion that the information provided by the Registrant did not provide any basis for concluding that he was unfit to attend a remote hearing. The Panel noted that the Registrant had not been consistent in his wish to attend the proceedings nor was he consistent in his explanation regarding his non-attendance. The information that he provided was unpersuasive. He initially appeared to rely upon an [REDACTED] to a procedure in

██████ he then stated that he had insufficient time to respond to the allegations but gave no explanation for this and then latterly appeared to argue that the stress of the proceedings were harmful to him. At its highest, the information he provided was a letter from a doctor in the UK, ██████ who had not seen the Registrant recently, (if at all), but who was commenting upon scans carried out elsewhere which had not been disclosed to the UKCP. ██████ suggested that the scan could support the conclusion that stress, and the stress of a hearing, may contribute to any risks the Registrant faced. However, no detail or explanation of this risk was provided nor how grave the risk is. There is no suggestion of how any risk may be managed or mitigate. However, more importantly ██████ did not suggest the Registrant was unfit to attend the hearing, indeed he makes no comment on this central issue.

- (b) The Panel concluded that the medical evidence amounted to little more than a letter provided following a request by the Registrant and which provided no basis upon which to conclude the Registrant was unable to attend. The Panel further noted that the Registrant appeared to be well enough to travel to ██████ ██████ and elsewhere in the world for extended periods. The Panel also noted that the Registrant had provided written comments including some which would undoubtedly be tested in cross-examination should he give evidence. The Panel concluded that far from being unfit to attend or participate, the Registrant had voluntarily absented himself and that adjourning would not result in his engagement or attendance.
- (c) Finally, the Panel also took account of the potential distress that an adjournment may cause to the complainant and of the adverse impact such an adjournment would have upon public confidence in the regulatory process.

Determination of Facts

- 5. The Panel considered all of the documentary evidence before it, including the Registrant's written representations. It heard oral submissions from Ms Chapman on behalf of UKCP.

Summary of oral evidence

- 6. The Panel heard oral evidence from Client A on behalf of UKCP. She first confirmed that she was in a therapeutic relationship with the Registrant from 2008 to 2019. She explained that she had lost her job in 2008 which precipitated a crisis in her mental health and that this had led to her seeking help. Client A said that the therapeutic sessions were expected to be for one hour but they would often be for two hours. The sessions were moved to the end of the working day so that there would be no interruptions if they overran as they regularly did. Client A explained that one of her issues was around observing boundaries. She said she had no understanding or expectation of the Registrant's therapeutic boundaries and that it was only after she had undertaken psychodynamic training that she understood the concept of boundaries and the idea of a safe therapeutic space.

7. Client A explained that she started looking for online guidance regarding boundaries and whether a client and a therapist may have a relationship since she did not know where to start regarding boundaries and had not developed them in her own life. She continued and explained that there had been no discussion regarding physical contact between herself and the Registrant and that they were to sit in chairs facing each other. She did not think there was any further description of appropriate boundaries. She described herself as being in distress and she accepted help from the Registrant. She said that initially she regarded the extended sessions as supportive and she did not consider that the Registrant acted with an ill motive. However, she now regarded the over running of the sessions as inappropriate. She explained that she needed help regarding boundaries, and that she needed to learn from them. The Registrant's extension of the session times prevented her from realising that she needed this help. She said that after 15 years of seeing the Registrant she had now been diagnosed as suffering from high anxiety and, having now received appropriate treatment, this had been easily dealt with medically. She said that the Registrant had not helped her high anxiety instead he provided her with books one of which included a reference to borderline personality disorder. Client A described herself as suffering from obsessive rumination and this became centred upon the Registrant. She said this was a symptom of her mental ill-health and that it was not a healthy foundation for a therapeutic relationship. She said the Registrant did not charge for the extra time when these sessions overran.
8. Regarding Allegation 3, Client A described the Registrant as saying she should tell him her feelings and that is what she did. She told him that she loved him and had feelings for him. She described feelings of jealousy when she overheard or became aware of other patients. Client A said that she needed help to control her feelings so she named them at the start of the session so they could work with them. She said that during 2011 she had stopped drinking and stopped going out with her then boyfriend. During the extended sessions she developed her attachment to the Registrant. Client A said that she told the Registrant she loved him and he said a relationship could not happen. However, this changed into 'it cannot happen outside the therapeutic room, it cannot happen in the real world but it is OK in the therapy room.' Client A said that she told the Registrant that she wanted to be in a relationship with him but having looked at such relationships online she realised that therapists and clients are not supposed to have sexual relationships. She said that she was asking whether they may have a relationship after the therapeutic relationship had ended and she sought to establish this possibility. She described herself as having a pattern of being attracted to unavailable men and referred to this in terms of being on the receiving end of a positive/affirmative male gaze without the consequences of a physical relationship or of being hurt. Client A said that instead of resolving that pattern the Registrant became part of the dynamic. He did not resolve her issues and prevented her from engaging in relationships elsewhere throughout that time.
9. Client A described herself as stripping to her underwear at the end of the therapeutic session every Monday. She said she did so for many months maybe as long as a year, it became how the therapeutic session would end. She said that she was, at his suggestion, the last client of the day. These sessions

took place in the attic room of his home and when the session ended they would have time together. They remained in the therapeutic room so that it was as if they did not cross the boundary into the “real world”. Client A said that she did not recall how things had progressed but that it had started with a reference to her over- spending. The Registrant thought that Client A had a spending addiction and set limits as to what she could buy. She referred to buying nice lingerie and said it was a shame that no one would see it. She described this as a statement and not an offer by her but it morphed into her removing her clothes and showing her underwear. She said that this caused her the greatest shame and she could not understand how this situation developed. She said her shame was increased when she, or this evolution, was described by the Registrant as having a whore/virgin split. She said she felt blamed and shamed by this characterisation. When she asked the Registrant why he did not stop her from acting in this way she said he claimed she could not withstand his rejection. She said that rather than preventing the damage she was doing to herself, he enabled it and then shamed her afterwards. She said that she still carried that shame and that it had been several years before she had felt able to begin a new relationship.

10. It was put to Client A that the Registrant said this had never happened at which she took a deep intake of breath and said that it happened regularly as she had described. She said that even now she felt guilty because she understood the consequences to the Registrant. She then described changing in his bathroom, putting on lingerie and taking time to prepare for what became “a performance”. She described the Registrant as encouraging and affirming this and ticking the box for her because there was no rejection. Client A was asked to describe the room in which this all happened. She said it was in the Registrant’s attic room. She said she would drive over, go into his bathroom, change into the underwear put on suspenders and high heels and one time she even attended wearing a beautiful ball gown. She said that she was dressing up as if she was on a date. She now considered the late sessions had been instituted in order to enable her to prepare as if it was a date. She described sitting in a rectangular room facing the Registrant and then she would take her outer clothes off. He did not move but stayed in his seat and she said that she was receiving the affirmative feedback and compliment that she sought. This happened within the therapy room.
11. Client A then went on to describe how the relationship between herself and the Registrant progressed to include physical contact. She said that after she had taken her clothes off things changed with a physical hug at first. She described the Registrant as standing with his back to the bannisters and she would lean against him. At first it was just his physical contact and proximity then it became a hug and then it evolved into kissing. She's described on occasion sitting on the Registrant's knee and another with the Registrant lying down and her lying on top of him. This contact became habitual and the physical contact became the norm. She estimated this occurred at least 30 times. Client A said that there was no agreement that there should be physical contact and it was not discussed as part of the therapy. However, because they remained in the therapy room the Registrant said they were not “in the real world”. She described this as being ‘in no man's land’ between therapy and the real world. He said it was therefore in a realm wherein there was no breach of any rules. She said this was not set

out as part of any therapeutic process or contract. Client A confirmed that the Registrant touched her breasts perhaps five times including one occasion when she did not have a bra on. She could not now recall how this came about but she thought it may have been a precursor to them lying down. The physical contact progressed from a hug to kissing and then to his hands touching her following which there was the occasion when she became frightened. It was put to her that the Registrant had said that there were only three occasions of physical contact in 2012. She said it may be that he touched her three times but the hugging and the kissing took place over a prolonged period of time.

12. Regarding the event that frightened her, it was put to her that it was the Registrant's case that he did not put his hands between her legs. Client A rejected this and said that what was different on this specific occasion was that it occurred at the other end of the bannisters. She said that she was wearing a short skirt. She could not now remember if it was her birthday or something like that and she did not know why it was different. She described them as kissing and she said it was a bit more forceful and he put his hand under her skirt and clasped between her legs she described it as cupping. She said that the Registrant's actions were not aggressive but that it was not what she expected and she pulled away. However, he did not let go and there was a shift in his demeanour. She said that if it was not aggression then it was certainly anger. She said that she pulled away because she was scared and the illusion of this being a safe space under the male gaze but without risk to herself was shattered. She realised she was vulnerable and that she was not in control. Client A said that despite this she continued to see the Registrant and that this incident was never mentioned again. Client A said there was no discussion or agreement as to what had occurred and that she had been shocked and startled as opposed to being scared. She said that the Registrant had an erection when they were kissing and said that his hands had never before gone below her waist so it felt out of character for him to act in this way. She said that he blamed her for wearing a short skirt, said that "he was a red-blooded man", and that he was annoyed that she had pulled away. She said that in no way did this feel as if it was part of the therapy process and that she snapped out of her fantasy and realised that she was at risk in a room with a man she no longer understood.
13. Ms Chapman next took client A to Allegation 7(a) and the comment regarding the virgin/whore split. Ms Chapman said that it was the Registrant's case that Client A had said it first and that he had merely mirrored it back to her. Client A rejected this said that she did not think she had come up with that description but that even if she had, it was not reasonable for him to repeat it. She said that she could not remember saying it but that when he said it, it 'landed'. She said she did not use that framing of her character. Client A said that she asked the Registrant why he had allowed her to undress and why he did not stop it once he realised how far she would go. He then pushed back with the virgin/whore comment which shut her up and took the wind out of her sails when she was trying to hold him to account. She said that he stole her power by shaming her and that it was a very effective tactic by him. Client A said that the description could be framed as an accusation but it was more of a description of her by the Registrant. In addition he said that she could not cope with rejection. She described herself as being in no man's land and said that the Registrant was preventing her from developing agency. He

was re-framing what occurred as some form of therapeutic method and he was angry and defensive when he was challenged so he shut her down with his comment. She went on to describe the Registrant as admitting that he had sexually assaulted her. When she described the event to him he said yes it was sexual assault and he said he did not think that she would come back. Client A said that she went back because she had nowhere else to go but she felt that her vulnerability had been taken advantage of. Client A said that the Registrant had described rules in therapy as “protective” but said that “they are not always helpful, and one can work outside rules if it is helpful to do so”. He said that he had taken a different therapeutic approach with her, it had worked and she was ungrateful.

14. Regarding Allegation 7(b), when she left the final session Client A described shaking the Registrant’s hand and in response he gripped her hand so that she felt the bones crushed. He did so whilst he looked her in the eye. She said it was a threat meant to dissuade her from telling anyone. She said that she did not think he used the words ‘don’t tell anyone’, rather he referred to consequences, the loss of livelihood, the fact that he was renting. She described this as a very loaded statement which equated to don’t tell anyone. She described the comment as being malevolent and heavily implied that she should not tell anyone. Client A said that she believed at the time that she was in love but in fact she was acting out the pattern of her life in an unhealthy relationship.
15. Turning to Allegation 7(c) and the comment regarding her inability to cope with rejection, Client A said she was angry about this. She had never before been unable to cope with rejection and posed the question as to why she would not be able to withstand rejection by him. She reiterated that the Registrant admitted sexually assaulting her and admitted 100% that he had had non-consensual sexual contact with her. She said that this occurred when he had commented about not being able to stop himself and called her a ‘prick tease’. She described the Registrant as saying if she did not want the relationship to be sexual then it all had to stop. She said she did not want a sexual relationship at that time, but she wanted the promise of a relationship after the therapeutic relationship had concluded.
16. Ms Chapman put the Registrant’s version of the alleged sexual contact to Client A as contained in his statement where he describes an impulsive reaction to Client A acting out her fantasy. He claimed that he did so without any sexual intent. Client A said that the only reason she recoiled was because the Registrant placed his hands between her legs and made firm contact with her body. She agreed that his hand had not gone below her waist before this but she recoiled because of what had just occurred. She confirmed that his demeanour changed to anger and he did not like the fact that she pulled away from him. She rejected his description of events.
17. Ms Chapman also put to Client A the Registrant’s comments, rejection of blame and any description such as grooming, gaslighting, sexual assault, blame and shame or coercive control. Client A said there was a massive progression in the relationship over time and she could not explain or understand how she had come to feel comfortable in stripping off in front of him. All she could now say was that an environment had been created in which she felt comfortable doing this. To the extent that the

Registrant was responsible for creating that environment, she described it as grooming. She said the environment, the discussion, the encouragement was such that she did not feel it was inappropriate to do what she did, and all of that felt like grooming. Telling her it didn't happen, re- framing events, blaming her, rejecting her reality all of that felt like gaslighting. She said that the blame and shame came from his description of her as having the whore/virgin split. She said the sexual assault occurred as she described. She further described the Registrant as making her feel as if she had been a temptress responsible for him acting out of character and she carried that with her. As a vulnerable client it was not for her to carry that burden.

18. Regarding the question of coercive control Client A said that she had stopped drinking for two years, but the Registrant insisted that she carry on going to Alcoholics Anonymous. She continued to do so through fear of him becoming angry. This was an example of him coercively controlling her. She said that since these events she had undertaken CBT which had been a much better way of controlling and managing the noisy narrative in her head. Client A concluded by saying that the Registrant's approach to trauma and addiction was controlling he did not recognise this and boundaries were crossed not just physical ones.
19. In response to questions from the Panel, Client A said that she met the Registrant in shared offices in South Kensington before he moved the practice to the attic in his home which is where the sessions she described took place. She said there may have been other people in the building but he and she were alone in the room which was at the top of the stairs. There was a door at the bottom of the stairs making it private. She described other premises that the Registrant used but these were distinct and separate from the attic. Regarding the change of time for the sessions she was last on the list partly because she worked but it was also linked to the fact that the sessions would overrun. She came to expect sessions to overrun although she had not asked for it and he had facilitated this by making their sessions the last of the day. Client A was asked whether the Registrant ever spoke about supervision and she said he mentioned it once but he did not discuss this with her. She said they had no contact after the last session and no attempts were made by her to contact him or by him to contact her.
20. Client A was asked about the 'no man's land' between the real world and the therapeutic session and whether the Registrant justified this. She said that the initial framing was that there was to be no contact at all but that this could change when the therapy session had ended. She said that the Registrant told her nothing could happen in the real world outside the walls of the therapy room but that once the therapy session had ended, if they remained in the room, they were not yet in the real world. She said he spoke of a gap between the UKCP rules which applied in therapy and the outside world. This was a no man's land in the 10 to 15 minutes that they had before she left. She said he explained that nothing would happen outside of the room. In addition, there were clear boundaries during the session itself when he sat in one chair and she sat in the other but, once the session had concluded the Registrant would move to the banister, and she would join him in her underclothes as described. Regarding the dressing and undressing, Client A said that she had a very clear idea that as

time progressed, she dressed as if she were going on a date, not in work clothes, not in jeans and he enabled this by creating an environment or an atmosphere in which she felt she could do so. She said that she believed he could have diffused or stopped this but the discussion about lingerie and the conversation took events in a particular direction. She said that if he had rejected her offer to show him an item of underwear she did not believe it would have been catastrophic. She said she might have crumpled at the time but instead of preventing her from acting as she did, he enabled it. She said he encouraged or allowed her to act in a way which was outside the therapeutic framework. Furthermore, Client A said that the Registrant was aware of her holding onto a fantasy that they could have a relationship once the therapy had finished and rationalising the possibilities of a relationship. She said that even if it was just a 1% chance if that 1% did in fact occur then it would be 100%. Rather than closing this down he enabled the fantasy to continue by way of this no man's land as a zone where rules did not apply.

21. Client A said that she remains conflicted regarding the Registrant because he had helped her. She said that he helped her keep her job and she learned more about herself. She said that he helped her through crisis but he did not help when the wheels fell off again. She said she now had a much better and more resilient way to deal with things. She described the Registrant as not helping her with her boundaries. She said that he had helped her with good intent for the most part but that the (therapeutic) rules should have been there to protect. The Registrant's breaching of the boundaries meant that she did not reach out to find help elsewhere when she later needed it.
22. Client A was asked how the therapy sessions would end, and she said that they would talk, work through a particular issue and the Registrant would then say, 'that's a good place to stop' or 'we'll end there', so that there was a clear indication that the formal part of the session had ended. Following this she would take off her clothing and he would move and observe her. He would stand by the bannisters, she would join him, and things would become physical. Client A said that she had felt she had a cold heart for a very long time but when he hugged her she felt warmth and the flutter of her heart and that made her think she was in love, it was a moment she felt. This then morphed into kissing and so on. Client A described the shape of the room as being L-shaped with therapy taking place at the foot of the L and the non-therapeutic contact occurring along the spine over the L. She particularly recalled the sexual assault because this had occurred in the therapy area, and she felt trapped which was also a reason why she recoiled. They have not discussed such intimacy beforehand. He had an erection and said, 'can you feel that?' Until the assault she had enjoyed things but at that point it all changed. Client A concluded by saying that she could understand the physical things and how that had come to happen between people but she could not understand how she had come to undressing in front of him.

Application to amend the Allegations

23. Following Client A's evidence, Ms Chapman applied to withdraw Allegation 9(f). She did so on the basis that the evidence did not support the assertion that a relationship continued after the therapeutic relationship had concluded. She said that rule 1.6 of the code dealt with former clients not current clients. She reminded the panel of the case of *PSA v NMC & X [2018] EWHC 70* and that since the panel was seized of the matter it must be satisfied that the evidence did not support the allegation.
24. In addition, Ms Chapman applied to amend allegation 7(b) by adding the words "and/or inferred that by using words to that effect." She submitted that this application was made at the earliest opportunity and better reflected the evidence given by Client A who had clarified her statement in which she said he used the phrase "must not tell anyone". She now said this was the effect of what the Registrant did and said but he did not use these exact words. Her evidence was that this was the message heavily implied in the actions that she described him taking. Ms Chapman said that the Registrant denied saying anything and a change to the words made no difference to this approach.

Decision on the Applications to Amend the Allegation

25. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor that it may amend the allegations at any stage of the proceedings provided that to do so caused no unfairness to the Registrant or the public interest.
26. The Panel Consented to the withdrawal of allegation 9(f) since there was no evidence from which to conclude that a relationship continued after the therapy ended. Indeed Client A specifically confirmed that there was no such relationship.
27. Concerning allegation 7(b), the Panel agreed that this better reflected the evidence as explained by Client A and the amendment caused no unfairness to the Registrant who simply denied that anything untoward had occurred. Amending the allegation was in the panel's view in accordance with the overarching objective.
28. The allegations as amended appear at the start of this determination.

Submissions on the facts

29. Ms Chapman submitted that, based on Client A's evidence, all the allegations were proved. She said that Client A was a credible and honest witness, and her evidence had been tested in the hearing. She said that a delay in reporting allegations such as these was not unusual and Client A was clear about what had been her fantasy and what was reality. Despite some events occurring in 2011 or 2012, Ms Chapman said these were memorable and included Client A stripping to her underwear and the Registrant making sexual contact with her. She submitted that Client A had not misremembered these

events. She said Client A was sure about these events, being able to picture them like a video clip in her mind. She said that Client A conceded matters where she was not clear such as the timeline and was honest in declaring that there were some things she could not remember. Ms Chapman described her as an honest and reliable witness. Furthermore, she pointed out that Client A had said she felt conflicted about giving evidence because the Registrant had indeed helped her in some respects. She did not seek to paint him in a wholly negative light. Ms Chapman submitted that this suggested Client A had reflected and given measured evidence. She further submitted that with a lapse of time since these events and no contact since their occurrence there was no ill-reason or motivation for Client A to put herself through the unpleasant task of admitting to herself what had occurred and then writing and discussing it in public. Instead, she wanted to bring these events to the attention of the UKCP because of the advice that she had received from other professionals to process events for herself and to act in such a way as to protect other vulnerable clients from the Registrant.

30. Ms Chapman said that the Panel had not had the benefit of live evidence from the Registrant but that's his non-attendance should not be held against him and no adverse inference could be drawn. She said that the Registrant had provided a written document in which he appeared to accept that there had been some unprofessional and or sexual contact above the waist on at least two or three occasions. He admitted breaching boundaries regarding the virgin/whore comment albeit he said that Client A had used this terminology first. Ms Chapman submitted that the Registrant took no responsibility for what occurred and put the blame upon Client A suggesting that she was a person preoccupied with sex and that she had made him behave as he did. Furthermore it was his case that Client A should not complain because he had made her better. Ms Chapman said this is suggestive of gaslighting and abuse and that the Registrant seemed offended by Client A's allegations. He regarded himself as having great experience and of being of benefit to her. Ms Chapman said it was easy to understand why Client A had questioned herself. The Registrant appeared aware that he held the power and he used it for his own gain. She said that he was aware of Client A's vulnerability and had a clear motivation to lie about events since his career was at stake.
31. Ms Chapman then referred briefly to several of the allegations and to her evidence list document. Concerning allegation 2, she said the Registrant accepted that the sessions overran but he denied that this was planned and says that he maintained boundaries. Ms Chapman asserted that he did not maintain boundaries and the extension of time blurred the boundary between a professional relationship and a personal one. She said that the Registrant was or at least should have been aware of the messages that this extension of time sent to Client A. Regarding allegation 3, and Client A's feelings toward the Registrant, Ms Chapman said that he did not deny this. Rather his case was that she should not have said it. Concerning the dispute over undressing Ms Chapman said that Client A's evidence was clear. She said that the Registrant allowed or encouraged Client A to remove her clothes knowing that she was attracted to him and in so doing he was not acting in her best interests. She said that clearly the only course of action would have been to end the professional relationship after appropriate signposting.

32. Regarding allegation 4 the hugging and kissing, Ms Chapman said that the Registrant admitted sexual contact above the waist two or three times. However, Client A's evidence supported the conclusion that this occurred numerous times. As to allegation 5, - touching Client A on her breast and between her legs, Ms Chapman said that the Registrant had made partial admissions and did not deny touching Client A's breast. He denied touching her below the waist but described her as recoiling. This confirms what Client A said. Namely that she recoiled because he had touched her between the legs. She said Client A confronted him with this fact and he admitted it had been a sexual assault. Ms Chapman submitted that client A's evidence was to be preferred and the Registrant was now not telling the truth. Regarding allegation 6 and the comment about stopping hugging and kissing, Ms Chapman said that the Registrant admitted there was a conversation about stopping certain conduct and Client A's evidence was clear. She said it was likely that such comments were made.
33. Turning to allegation 7(a), Ms Chapman said Client A had given detailed evidence and the Registrant accepted he had used the term virgin/whore but he sought to justify it by saying he repeated what Client A had originally said. Regarding 7b (not telling anyone) Ms Chapman said that Client A had understood the Registrant to be saying that she should not tell anybody and that his actions were vindicated. She subsequently clarified this in evidence. She said that Client A's clarification was honest and that Client A knew exactly what the Registrant meant. Ms Chapman described his actions as malevolent, looking Client A in the eye, crushing her hand and talking of consequences. Finally, regarding allegation 7(c), Ms Chapman said that in his own statement the Registrant claimed to have benefited Client A and she invited the panel to find that he did indeed seek to justify his actions by doing so.
34. Turning next to allegation 8, Ms Chapman submitted that all the conduct, if found proved, could be characterised as inappropriate and unprofessional. As to sexual motivation, she said that the Registrant had partially accepted this. She referred the panel to the cases of *Haris v GNC [2020] EWHC 2518* and *Basson v General Medical Council [2018] EWHC 505* and said that, in determining sexual motivation, it was the underlying conduct that was important rather than looking for the pursuit of gratification or a future relationship. She said it was reasonable to infer sexual motivation particularly because the conduct escalated from kissing and cuddling, it was not clinically justified, it was not therapeutic, it was not discussed or agreed in advance and there could be no other reason than sexual motivation on the part of the Registrant for him having encouraged or permitted it. She said allowing Client A to undress herself in attractive lingerie could only be sexually motivated. The Registrant had deliberately breached boundaries to facilitate what had later occurred, isolating Client A, grooming her and placing her in the situation in which she had convinced herself that she should take her clothes off. Ms Chapman said this was a sustained course of sexually motivated conduct.
35. Dealing finally with the alleged breaches of the code contained an allegation 9, Ms Chapman said that these were clearly made out. The Registrant had failed to act in Client A's best interests or treat her

with respect, his actions were sexually motivated and the relationship was a sexual one from his perspective. These events had harmed Client A with him taking advantage of her vulnerabilities. This harm was foreseeable, but the Registrant had carried on regardless. Finally, she submitted that there was no evidence that the Registrant had reported his conduct, either to a supervisor or to UKCP but that instead he had a doubled down and blamed Client A.

36. Following Ms Chapman's submissions, the Panel indicated that it would re-read the Registrant's documents and, having done so it placed this fact on record.

37. Following the above, the UKCP received further written submissions from the Registrant. Ms Chapman did not object to the submissions being placed before the Panel and, following advice from the Legal Assessor, they were admitted into evidence as R2 and taken into consideration.

Decision on the facts

38. The Panel heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. In particular, since the Registrant was not present and had not formally answered the allegations, the Panel treated them as denied. The Panel recognised that the burden of proving all or any of the allegations was on the UKCP. The standard of proof was on the balance of probabilities and no adverse inferences could or should be drawn from the Registrant's non-attendance.

39. On balance, having fully considered the above, the Panel made the following findings:

Allegation One

Between approximately 2008 and 2019, you were in a therapeutic relationship with Client A.

Denied. - Found proved

Reasons for determination

The Panel regarded Client A's evidence as clear and unequivocal regarding the therapeutic relationship and, the Registrant did not deny the fact of the relationship.

Allegation Two

During your therapeutic relationship with Client A, you did not maintain appropriate time boundaries by allowing sessions to overrun

Denied - Found Proved

Reasons for determination

Both Client A and the Registrant accepted that the sessions overran. It was not disputed that boundaries were not maintained. It was the Registrant's case that sessions overran because Client A was in crisis however, Client A was clear that sessions overran on a very regular basis. The Panel was of the view that boundaries such as time are, or should be, part of a pre-agreed contract so that everybody has a clear understanding of what to expect and a timeframe within which to work. Such boundaries encourage clients to manage their time and prevent dependency or to avoid a client

coming to feel or believe that they are special. The Registrant did the opposite of this and without reflection or explicit agreement extended the time as described by Client A.

Allegation Three

In or around 2011 or 2012, Client A told you that she loved you, wanted to be in a relationship with you and/or undressed in front of you. You did not end the therapeutic relationship.

Denied - Found Proved

Reasons for determination

Client A clearly described saying that she came to have feelings for the Registrant and then raised with him in a session that she loved him, furthermore she told him that she wanted to be in a relationship with him. She was clear in her statement and in her oral evidence regarding undressing in front of the Registrant. This started with talking about her lingerie in the context of discussing her spending and it progressed to her removing her clothing and parading in front of him. The Registrant has not denied that Client A made the statements regarding loving him but he says it is completely untrue that she removed her clothing. Having seen and heard Client A and her description of events, the Panel concluded that she was accurate and credible in what she said. She provided detail such as how and where each of them sat, where they stood, and what they did. The Panel noted her clear and immediate reaction when his blanket denial was put to her. The Panel found her to be consistent, compelling and credible and did not consider that her account was manufactured in any way. The Panel also noted that even now she describes the shame of it and is unclear as to why she did it. The Panel preferred her account to his flat denial.

Allegation Four

In or around 2012 or 2013, during one or more sessions with Client A, you hugged and kissed her

Denied - Found Proved

Reasons for determination

Client A gave clear evidence regarding the habitual conduct after the formal therapy session had ended. She said they went into some form of “no man's land” which was not bounded by the rules of therapy but neither was it “the real world” where another set of rules held sway and in this space their sexual behaviour escalated to where Client A and the Registrant were leaning against each other and then hugging and kissing. She described times when she sat on his lap or when they lay on the floor. She said that they hugged and kissed on excess of 30 occasions. The Registrant conceded that some form of sexual contact occurred albeit he does not say what he means by this. Considering her clear account the Panel was satisfied that the Registrant did indeed hug and kiss Client A on more than one occasion as she described.

Allegation Five

In or around 2012 or 2013, during a session with Client A, you fondled her breasts and put your hands between her legs

Denied - Found Proved

Reasons for determination

Client A provided a clear description of the escalation in the Registrant's conduct culminating in the events set out in the allegation. She said that sexual contact occurred two or three times. Regarding the specific allegation, Client A described the Registrant touching her breast and then firmly touching her between the legs, which she described as cupping. This was firm if not aggressive and she described recoiling since this was unexpected. Her description of this was detailed, clear and unequivocal. It followed on from her description of a pattern of escalation from encouraging/permitting her to undress, hugging then kissing, touching her breasts and then the more intimate touching between the legs. She described his angry reaction to her recoiling in rejection of what he had done.

The Registrant asserts that "sexual contact began and finished . . . on three occasions", however he said that there was no contact below the waist save that on one occasion he made an impulsive and involuntary move in response to her sexual energy. He denied this was sexual on his part and denied touching her, however he confirmed that she recoiled. The panel had no doubt that Client A's description of events was accurate and was to be preferred. The Registrant's denials followed the same pattern of minimising his own conduct and blaming her for it.

Allegation Six

In or around 2012 or 2013, during a session with Client A, you told her that you needed to stop hugging and kissing her unless the relationship was going to become sexual because you could not control yourself, or words to that effect

Denied - Found Proved

Reasons for determination

In her statement, Client A gives a clear account of what the Registrant said. She gave further details in evidence regarding his reaction and his comment that he was "a hot-blooded male". The Registrant does not address this allegation instead he places the blame upon Client A. He speaks of an impulsive energy which the Panel understood to be to sexual energy. He says he responded. It is also noted that he now says he said it would be better if they had stopped physical contact.

Once again, the Panel concluded that Client A's clear and detailed evidence was to be preferred to the denials and shifting of blame in the Registrant's comments.

Allegation Seven

(a) told Client A she was the most extreme case of virgin and whore split you had encountered;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The Registrant did not dispute that he used this term however once again he placed the blame for its genesis upon Client A, saying that she had used it first and that he had merely mirrored this back to her. Client A's assessment of the likelihood of her using this comment was credible. She rejected his

version of events. She added that even if she was mistaken and that she had in fact used this term first he should not have reflected it back to her in the way that he did.

The Panel found Client A's description of the Registrant using this term to be clear and compelling. It regarded his version of events as unlikely and once again his explanation followed the same pattern of minimisation and blame. The Registrant deployed this term for his own benefit rather than exploring it with Client A in a safe and therapeutic way.

- (b) told Client A she must not tell anyone about the therapeutic relationship and/or inferred that by using words to that effect;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

In her statement, Client A says that the Registrant told her not to tell anyone. She clarified this in evidence and gave a detailed and quite graphic account of the Registrant, at the end of their final session, looking her directly in the eye while aggressively gripping her hand after speaking of the consequences. The Panel found her description of events to be clear and compelling. There was an obvious implication in his comments and his actions namely that she should not tell anyone what had occurred between them. The Registrant's conduct was once again consistent with him abusing the power dynamic between them.

- (c) justified your actions at paragraphs 2 - 5 above by saying that she could not have handled you rejecting her and that your approach had been successful.

Denied - Found Proved

Reasons for determination

The Panel considered that Client A's description of events illustrated a pattern in the Registrant's conduct of the Registrant minimising his own actions or justifying them and placing any blame on Client A. His written documents provided to the Panel follow the same course. He seeks to justify himself on the basis that he assisted Client A and that the sexual behaviour was part of a therapeutic method or approach. Whilst Client A accepted that she had benefited in some respects from the work she did with the Registrant, this provided no justification at all for the Registrant's conduct. Client A's account of events was clear and rational. Conversely the Registrant's denials were self-serving and placed the blame for his failings upon her.

Allegation Eight

Your actions, as outlined in paragraphs 2 - 7 above, were

- (a) inappropriate; and/or

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The Panel determined that none of the behaviour found proved was appropriate to the therapeutic process. There was no prior agreement or set of expectations, no formal contract and no boundaries as to what the Registrant did. He took advantage of a vulnerable client who was suffering from

addiction and had endured previous poor relationships. She had significant mental health issues at the time. Client A presented with therapeutic needs and challenges that required a safe well boundaried therapeutic space in which to explore her inner world and work through her needs and challenges. Instead of providing this the Registrant reinforced Client A's unhelpful and damaging behaviour patterns, validating, colluding in, and reinforcing them in an inappropriate way. The Registrant made things worse for Client A. His response to her needs was wholly inappropriate.

(b) unprofessional; and/or

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The panel adopted the reasoning above and noted that the Registrant acted in his own interests by entering into and colluding in Client A's destructive behaviour. In so doing he caused and perpetuated harm to her. In allowing or enabling Client A to remove her clothes in front of him during a therapy session, the Registrant worked outside any recognised modality or explicit agreement and by doing so he actively prevented her from obtaining the help she needed. The Panel found that the Registrant worked in an uninformed, unhelpful and unprofessional way, one in which there was no evidence or theoretical basis for his actions and one in which he flouted the norms of therapy working outside all accepted guidance that would have acted to ensure that Client A was safe. Client A described desiring a 'safe male gaze' and, rather than reflecting on this with her, he encouraged her to act out her fantasy. Instead of challenging or seeking to understand that he facilitated and colluded in it, reinforcing and exacerbating her difficulties. He did so by creating a space (which Client A called no-man's land) that was neither governed by the rules which should have been operating in a properly therapeutic space nor "the real world" in which other social conventions, rules and constraints apply. He thus created an unprofessional environment in which to perpetuate his damaging collusion without taking professional or personal responsibility for his actions.

(c) sexually motivated.

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

In the absence of any clear professional framework or methodology, the Panel determined that there was no other conclusion but that the Registrant's actions were sexually motivated. His comment regarding his own past trauma provides no excuse or explanation for this very lengthy course of conduct indeed it should have signalled to him very clearly that he needed support in what he was doing.

The Panel found that the Registrant enabled an inappropriately sexualised environment and that this encouraged Client A to act as she did. He created a space at the end of the working day without rules or boundaries which Client A referred to as 'no-man's land', he behaved in a voyeuristic way and colluded in her fantasy of the safe male gaze. In so doing, the Registrant allowed Client A's fantasy of a potential relationship to continue rather than helped her to contain her feelings and understand what she was experiencing. In so doing, he isolated her and gave her double messages in that he was being sexual with her but simultaneously disowning his behaviour and its significance.

Client A stated that the Registrant was at times aroused by their conduct together and, he does not deny this – rather he seeks to put the blame for his arousal upon her. The Panel had no doubt that his actions were sexually motivated.

Allegation Nine

The behaviours set out in paragraphs 2-8 above are in breach of UKCP's Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct (2009) (the Code). In particular, you:

- a. Failed to act in Client A's best interests, thereby breaching paragraph 1.1 of the Code;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

Client A was vulnerable and the Panel determined that the Registrant took advantage of her, in his own interests over a lengthy period of time. In so doing he caused harm to her and denied her the opportunity of engaging with others who may have helped her (as they subsequently did). Client A spoke of the longevity of the harm and the pervasive shame he caused her.

- b. Failed to treat Client A with respect, thereby breaching paragraph 1.2 of the Code;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The Registrant colluded in Client A's fantasy, enabling her to act it out in their relationship and thereby perpetuating this. He abused his position of trust and facilitated her undressing herself in front of him such that he could then act in a voyeuristic and predatory manner. He violated her bodily integrity and left her unable to engage in relationships for many years. It is only now after years of properly conducted therapy that she has had the strength to complain.

- c. Engaged in a sexual relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 1.4 of the Code;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The Panel found that sexual intercourse did not need to take place for this to be a sexual relationship. The Registrant's motivation was sexual and over the course of years, he engaged in a sexually motivated relationship for his own gratification but one which he sought to disown as a therapist and "in the real world". This is demonstrated by the Registrant encouraging and enabling Client A to take her clothes off during or towards the end of the therapy sessions whilst he watched, and communicating to her that he was sexually aroused by these actions. He thus perpetuated his sexually motivated behaviour and colluded in making the relationship a sexual one. This was *not* in the best interests of Client A and nor was it part of any evidence-based therapeutic approach.

The Registrant conducted sessions in a private space set aside for the purpose of professional practice. These sessions consisted of two parts - a formal seated discussion followed by an additional period during which Client A acted out her fantasy, removed her clothing and the Registrant made physical contact with her. This period of time, referred to as "no-man's land" by Client A was a device created by the Registrant to enable what occurred. The Registrant described it as not in session (and thus not subject to regulation) and not in the real world. However, whilst the formal part of the session may have concluded the Registrant and Client A remained in the

therapeutic space and, what occurred happened in that therapeutic space where he remained the practitioner and she the client. The Panel determined that the Registrant and Client A remained in session in the Registrant's therapeutic space until she left that space. There is no such fictional space or time as described by the Registrant. To determine otherwise would give licence to his fiction of a place where he is not bound by professional rules of conduct and he/they could do anything. That puts the public at serious risk of harm.

- d. Abused and/or exploited your relationship with Client A for your own sexual and/or emotional gain, thereby breaching paragraph 1.3 of the Code;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The Panel concluded that the Registrant deliberately and intentionally enabled a damaging pattern of behaviour in Client A, reinforcing and promoting her challenges. In so doing he exploited Client A for his own gain, including his sexual or emotional gain as demonstrated by his voyeurism, his physical contact with Client A and his sexual arousal.

- e. Harmed Client A, thereby breaching paragraphs 1.8 and 1.9 of the Code;

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

Client A gave credible evidence that she had spent a number of years coming to terms with the serious harm that had been caused by the Registrant. This included the emotional distress of acknowledging how sexualised patterns of behaviour had been enabled and encouraged by the Registrant rather than contained and worked on in a safe therapeutic and personal space. Client A also described that she had subsequently spent several more years in therapy coming to terms with the damage done by the Registrant. She specifically described being unable to engage in personal relationships for several years due to what the Registrant had done.

- f. Failed to take all reasonable care, taking into account the time that had lapsed since therapy ended, before entering into a personal relationship with Client A, thereby breaching paragraph 1.6 of the Code;

Withdrawn by UKCP. Not proved

- g. Failed to challenge questionable practice in yourself and report potential breaches of the Code to UKCP, thereby breaching paragraph 10 of the Code.

Denied. - Found proved.

Reasons for determination

The Panel has received no evidence from which to conclude that the Registrant sought feedback about and/or challenged himself about all or any of the above conduct indeed in his communication with UKCP, including the document dated 29 August 2025 he seeks to justify his actions and places the blame on Client A. He demonstrates no self-awareness and his submissions do little more than reinforce his blaming of her and disowning of his own responsibility for creating the therapeutic relationship in which to work. He showed no understanding or skill in working with the "erotic transference" which he encountered in his work with this client. For this reason, she came to describe his behaviour as 'gaslighting'.

40. In total the Panel found 6 breaches of UKCP's Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct proved.

Resumed Hearing 21 October 2025

Determination of Misconduct and Impairment

41. This determination should be read in accordance with the Panel's previous determinations.
42. In accordance with rule 7.23 of UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process, the Panel then went on to consider the question of misconduct. In addressing this question, the Panel took into account of the relevant information before it.
43. The Registrant provided an additional bundle of documents amounting to 22 pages and referred to as R2. This comprised of three references and medical documentation. In addition, the Registrant attended for the morning of the resumed hearing to make the statement outlined below. He did so having met with the Legal Assessor and Counsel for UKCP.

Submissions on Misconduct and Impairment

44. The Panel heard further submissions from Ms Chapman on behalf of UKCP and from the Registrant.
45. Ms Chapman on behalf of UKCP provided full written submissions to the Panel and the Registrant. In her written documents Ms Chapman submitted that in accordance with *Cheatle v GMC [2009] EWHC 645* this is a two stage process with misconduct considered first followed by impairment.
46. In dealing with misconduct, Ms Chapman submitted in accordance with *R (Remedy UK Ltd) v General Medical Council [2010] EWHC 1245* that the conduct found proved must be serious and must be connected to the profession. Furthermore, she submitted that 'serious must be given its proper weight such that it would be regarded as deplorable conduct by fellow practitioners - *Roylance v General Medical Council [1999] UKPC*.
47. Ms Chapman reminded the Panel that it had concluded that there were serious breaches of the Code and that although these were not determinative of misconduct they clearly signalled it was present in this case. In short, she submitted that the conduct found proved did amount to misconduct since it fell far below the standards expected of a registered professional.
48. The Registrant elected to make a statement rather than provide evidence. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He said that there was no chance he would work in the near future.

49. Concerning the allegations, the Registrant said that he absolutely accepted that as soon as he got out of his chair, he had crossed a serious boundary. He said that he was aware of Client A's history of being coerced, shamed and experiencing extreme anxiety. This resulted in her being very close to a breakdown when she started therapy with him. The Registrant went on to say these symptoms were caused by Client A being objectified, sexualised, coerced and gaslit. He said he understood that the breach of boundaries was his responsibility.
50. When addressing remorse, the Registrant said that he stood up for what he considered to be the best care and he had failed in this which was hugely embarrassing and shaming. He said he did not know how to deal with this remorse but he knew it was there and as a result he had deleted himself from all online presence to make as little public display of himself as possible. In addition, he changed from undertaking monthly supervision to weekly supervision during the last ten or eleven years. He said that he had never missed a day of supervision and had been extremely conscientious. He said that his supervisor was "aware of most of the facts according to me" and she said that he had dealt with things effectively.
51. The Registrant said that he had worked with his supervisor to extricate himself from the position where he had crossed a boundary. He said he was clear about what had happened and there was no question of anyone sitting on the floor or sitting on his lap. He said he was ashamed of the three events he admitted knowing the client's history 'in the arena' and that he had established and maintained very strict boundaries from 2012 onwards. He said that he knew this was his responsibility.
52. Concerning redemption, the Registrant said that he did not know what was ever enough but it was now part of his practice to find a way certainly not to repeat things because that would be unthinkable. He said, 'how do I make good a mistake is a question probably for the rest of my life' and said he had undertaken lots of training around these sorts of things. His training included looking at ways of dealing with sexual trauma, how to hold this, how to be effective in acceptance and healing of sexual trauma. He said this was ongoing for the rest of his life let alone whatever his practise might be. He said this went to the spiritual aspects of remediation which is something that he believed in. He said it was why he was honest in accepting the mistakes and admitting the three events that he says happened. He said they do not become less because there were three, it was his responsibility to accept that and he did so both now and previously. He reiterated that he was not trying to change the basic tenet that he had crossed the boundaries but said that remediation was a complex process and he thought he had done everything that was possible. He said it struck him as being a lifelong process,

learning how these events affect his boundaries with clients and how he may challenge clients without crossing the boundary.

53. Concerning reflecting on the events, the Registrant said that he reflected on the persecution of the feminine and how men and women can be powerless in contact with the divine. He said this was and should be a very real thing and he had experienced powerlessness in the presence of the feminine divine. He said he had been travelling for some two years visiting monasteries from Egypt and South Africa.
54. When asked to consider the impact upon Client A the Registrant said that her complication was there in her history and he had repeated that history by crossing a boundary and that was serious. The Registrant spoke of his own experience and said he knew what it felt [to be objectivised, sexualised and abused]. He knew this in graphic detail. He said that one did not need to be sexually abused to be triggered and crossing a boundary can itself be triggering. In addition, his or his client's mental health can be triggering and that was for real. He said it would have been easier for him to deny everything and claim there was no evidence of what Client A said but instead he took responsibility. However, he said that he wished to "right size" the events. He said he was not aware of motives that was not his purpose, but it was important to "right size" things because he had put a massive amount of effort in trying to help client A and this had been trashed. He suggested that this indicated she was in distress.
55. The Registrant said that he was certainly not blaming Client A however his evidence may sound but again said he was trying to "right size" events. He said that he struggled on occasion with sympathy for Client A because of the accusations regarding his conduct. When asked about any current practice he may undertake the Registrant said that he had lost half his clients when he left England and that he now took occasional calls from longstanding clients who wish to check in with him. He said that he worked with people who had been seriously hurt or damaged in the past and it was part of his responsibility to do so. As to the risk of repetition, the Registrant said this was not possible since he did not work one to one anymore, he had no physical offices and that he now travelled regularly, rarely staying in one place for more than three months. The exception was his current location in [REDACTED] due to the ease with which he could renew his visa. He said he intended to stay in [REDACTED] and he had no intention to return to England which he had left due to the 'crumbling Victorian corruption' that he perceived. He said that he did not intend to work face to face in future and he was no danger to anybody. He said it was perhaps part of his redemption that he would not put himself in this position again. He said that he had not seen a client face-to-face for over 5 years, he was now 70 years old, and he was not going to start again. He said he was equally concerned about his own safety and this kept him and everybody else safe. He reiterated that he had done all he could remove his online profile.

Decision on Misconduct

56. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor as to the approach it should adopt in considering the question of misconduct. The Panel recognised that the question of misconduct is a matter of independent judgement and is not a matter of proof for the parties.
57. In addressing whether the facts proved amounted to misconduct, the Panel had regards to the comment by Lord Clyde in the case of *Roylance v GMC [1999] 1 A.C. 311* that *“Misconduct is a word of general effect, involving some act or omission which falls short of what would be proper in the circumstances. The standard of propriety may often be found by reference to the rules and standards ordinarily required by...a practitioner in the particular circumstances.”*
58. In addition, the Panel had regard to the judgement of Collins J in *Nandi v GMC (2004) EWHC 2317* (Admin) in which he said: *“The adjective “Serious” must be given its proper weight, and in other contexts, there has been reference to conduct which would be regarded as deplorable by fellow practitioners. It is, of course, possible for negligent conduct to amount to serious professional misconduct but the negligence must be to a high degree.”*
59. The Panel determined that the conduct found proved does amount to misconduct.
60. In coming to the above conclusion, the Panel took account of all the information before it including the documents provided by the Registrant and his statement summarised above.
61. The Panel determined that the Registrant’s conduct was serious in that it repeatedly fell far short of the standards expected of a registered professional. It had a serious and long-term impact upon Client A and the profession. The latter was compromised due to the adverse impact upon the public interest, maintaining public confidence in the profession and upholding professional standards. The conduct was not comprised of only the three isolated incidents as he asserted but was repeated over a long period of time for his own gratification. His conduct repeated and exploited the narrative through which Client A had been damaged in the past rather than containing this. He exacerbated this damage rather than working therapeutically. Client A explained how it had taken her years to come to terms with this and begin to have relationships again.
62. The Panel was of the view that Client A was at risk of abuse and manipulation due to her mental health, her attraction to unavailable partners and her idea of sexual safety in therapy sessions. The Panel considered the Registrant to be aware of this, not least since he said that Client A was at risk of a breakdown when she commenced therapy. However, as the work progressed and sexual issues came to the fore, rather than hold and contain that risk the Registrant created a “no man’s land” for his own purposes. He asserted that this was outside therapy and outside the real-world (where no sexual

relationship could occur) doing so for his own gratification as Client A acted out her fantasy. This space and the associated conduct was entirely spurious and outside any mode of professional practice.

63. In acting as he did, the Panel was of the view that the Registrant crossed numerous boundaries over several years and he caused harm to Client A and the profession. He did so by using the power imbalance in their relationship, manipulating and controlling Client A. The Panel had no doubt that the public would be appalled by such conduct.
64. Having determined that the Registrant's actions amounted to serious misconduct the Panel then went on to consider the question of impairment.

Decision on Impairment

65. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor in reaching its decision. The Panel was mindful that the question of impairment is a matter for the Panel's professional judgement. The Panel was required to determine whether the Registrant's fitness to practise is currently impaired. The Panel had to assess the current position looking forward not back, however in order to form a view of the Registrant's fitness to practise today, the Panel will have to take account of the way in which the Registrant has acted or failed to act in the past. The Panel acknowledged that a finding of misconduct does not necessarily mean that there is impairment of fitness to practise. There must always be situations in which a Panel can properly decide that the act of misconduct was, on the part of the Registrant, isolated and the chance of it being repeated in the future is so remote that his or her fitness to practise has not been impaired.
66. To determine the question of impairment the Panel applied the approach set out by Dame Janet Smith in the 5th Shipman Enquiry and cited with approval in the case of *CHRE v Grant* (2011) EWHC 927 (Admin):
- "Do our findings of fact in respect of the [Registrant's] misconduct, deficient professional performance, adverse health, conviction, caution or determination show that his/her fitness to practise is impaired in the sense that s/he:*
- a. Has in the past acted and/or is liable in the future to act so as to put a patient or patients at unwarranted risk of harm; and/or*
 - b. Has in the past brought and/or is liable in the future to bring the medical profession into disrepute; and/or*
 - c. Has in the past breached and/or is liable in the future to breach one of the fundamental tenets of the medical profession; and/or*
 - d. Has in the past acted dishonestly and/or is liable to act dishonestly in the future.*
67. When considering whether the Registrant is liable to act in such a way in the future, the Panel had regard to any level of insight shown by him. The Panel also had regard to the decision in the case of

Cohen v GMC (2008) EWHC 581 and considered whether the Registrant's misconduct is easily remedied; has already been remedied; and whether it is likely to be repeated.

68. The Panel was also mindful that when considering impairment, it is entitled to have regard to the wider public interest in the form of maintaining public confidence in the profession and declaring and upholding proper standards. The Panel had regard to the following part of the judgement in the case of Grant:

"In determining whether a practitioner's fitness to practice is impaired by reason of misconduct, the panel should generally consider not only whether the practitioner constitutes a present risk to members of the public in his or her current role, but also whether the need to uphold proper professional standards and public confidence in the profession would be undermined if a finding of impairment were not made in the particular circumstances."

69. In considering the questions a – c above (d being irrelevant to this case) the Panel concluded that all could be answered in the affirmative. The Panel found there were numerous fundamental breaches of professional standards by the Registrant and that he caused harm to Client A and the profession. He imposed no boundaries or guardrails to protect a very vulnerable client and/or to protect himself. The Registrant isolated Client A and induced a state of dependency. Having induced that state, the Registrant did little that was constructive to support Client A in moving forward. Instead, he exacerbated the damage that she had already suffered.

70. The Panel regarded as notable that the Registrant said his supervisor was aware of "most of the facts according to me". Furthermore, that he sought to "right size" the events and persisted in asserting there were only three isolated incidents rather than years of misconduct. It was clear to the Panel that the Registrant sought to minimise his responsibility. The Panel had no doubt that 'the facts according to him' could not constitute a full and frank disclosure to a responsible supervisor since no supervisor would permit such conduct to go unchallenged. The Panel also observed that none of the references in bundle R2 contained any declaration or information to suggest the referees were fully aware of the nature of these proceedings. The Panel also regarded as notable the fact that the Registrant spoke of putting a massive amount of work into Client A and regarded her complaint as 'trashing' this. It was evident that even with his limited concession of responsibility and assertion of remorse he blamed Client A for his predicament.

71. The Panel found that the Registrant acted for his own gratification and/or sought to justify his actions. He continues to do so. The Panel has seen little evidence of reflection or recognition by the Registrant regarding just how serious and damaging his misconduct was both to Client A and to the profession. Instead of dealing with reflection from a professional perspective, the Registrant spoke of his own spiritual pathway and the impact of events upon himself. Whilst he said he had undertaken training or learning on various issues he provided no evidence in support of this or the recognition that a professional should be held to account by his peers, supervisor and regulator.

72. Whilst the Registrant said that he has been unwell and he continues to be unwell it would appear that he has been sufficiently well to travel and that he still practises remotely. The Panel concluded that whilst he may be limited in what he can currently do, the Registrant is not prevented from practising remotely and that puts clients at risk. Whilst the Registrant spoke of impact and risk to himself, he provided no real assurance to the Panel that clients were not at risk. He suggested he did not know how to remediate, was dismissive of Client A and dismissive of the facts found proved. His statement today emphasised that he sought to present himself as a victim and avoid rather than address criticism. His averment of embarrassment and shame appeared to be little more than self-interest since he had acknowledged them but done little to address the root cause of his predicament namely his serious and long-standing misconduct.

73. Taking account of the above, the Panel concluded that the Registrant has shown little or no insight into the risk and harm caused by his conduct or that the risk continues. There is limited evidence of reflection or learning to address this. As such, the Panel concluded that there remains a risk to clients and to the standing of the profession and the Registrant's fitness to practice is indeed impaired.

Determination on Sanction

74. In accordance with rule 7.25 of UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process, the Panel then went on to consider the question of sanction. This determination should be read in accordance with the Panel's previous determinations on the facts, misconduct and impairment.

Submissions on Sanction

75. The Panel received further written submissions from Ms Chapman. Thereafter, she made short additional oral submissions. The Registrant was not present in this part of the hearing having absented himself following his statement (see above). The Panel nonetheless took his statement and documents into account in determining which sanction was appropriate in the circumstances of this case.

76. In her written submissions, Ms Chapman reminded the Panel that the purpose of sanctions is to protect the public, uphold professional standards and maintain public confidence in the profession. She said that they were not intended to punish but that they may have a punitive effect and the Panel should keep the issue of proportionality in mind. That being the case the Panel should consider the sanctions in ascending order. She submitted that proportionality remains integral to a decision regarding a sanction imposed for the purpose of deterring other registrants from acting in a similar manner or when declaring and upholding professional standards.

77. Ms Chapman suggested that there were the following aggravating features in the case; abuse of a position of power, sustained conduct over a lengthy period, coercion/grooming, sexual touching, a

significantly vulnerable client, long term actual harm caused, a lack of candour in failing to report professional misconduct/provide full and frank disclosure of failings, little to no insight, limited evidence of reflection and remediation. As to mitigating factors, Ms Chapman said that the Registrant was currently experiencing ill health, had no previous complaints to his name had made limited informal admissions to some of the conduct and he had engaged with the process in a limited way.

78. Ms Chapman provided short written submissions on each of the available sanctions but concluded by asserting that the only sanction proportionate to the gravity of the case was to remove the Registrant from the register. She reminded the Panel that sexual misconduct is regarded as particularly serious and that any sanction less than suspension would necessarily require careful justification.

79. The Panel reminded itself of the Registrant's earlier statement and took account of his previous good character and the testimonials he provided.

Decision on Sanction

80. In reaching its decision, the Panel had regard to the UKCP's Indicative Sanctions Guidance 2019 ("the ISG") but exercised its own independent judgement.

81. The Panel heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor. The Panel recognised that the purpose of any sanction is not to punish the Registrant, although that may be the consequence of a carefully weighted decision. The Panel recognised that any sanction must be proportionate and the least impactful to meet the risks identified by the Panel weighing the public interest with that of the Registrant.

82. The public interest includes the protection of members of the public, including clients, the maintenance of public confidence in the profession, and the declaring and upholding of proper standards of conduct and behaviour within the profession.

83. The Panel considered the sanctions available to it under rule 7.25 of the Complaints and Conduct Process in ascending order and was mindful that any sanction imposed should be the minimum that was proportionate and appropriate in the circumstances.

84. The Panel first considered whether there were any particular aggravating or mitigating factors in the case. Concerning aggravating factors, the Panel has already found that the misconduct is serious. However, the Panel was of the view that several of the factors outlined by Ms Chapman above did aggravate that finding. The Panel considered that the Registrant abused his position of trust and power, doing so whilst in the therapy room. This involved sustained misconduct over a lengthy period in a space that he created for this purpose. He exploited the known and significant vulnerabilities of Client A and he escalated his misconduct. This culminated in sexual touching of Client A's breasts and

between her legs which Client A regarded as a sexual assault. He caused lasting harm to Client A and to the standing and reputation of the profession. He did not act with candour by reporting or subsequently acknowledging his failings. In addition as stated above there is little evidence of insight, reflection or remediation. Rather the Registrant avoided responsibility and minimised his misconduct.

85. Regarding mitigating factors, the Panel recognised that the Registrant was a practitioner of good character and that others spoke highly of him in the testimonials provided. However, the Panel could only place limited weight upon these documents given the lack of evidence from which to conclude that the authors of the testimonials were aware of the case in its entirety. The Panel noted that the Registrant had made some admissions to the allegations but these were partial and limited. In his statement (see above) he sought to place blame on Client A and minimise his own culpability. Finally, the Panel did note that Client A said the Registrant had helped her in some ways.

86. The Panel has set out in detail the nature of the conduct found proved, the boundaries that were breached, the period of time over which this occurred and whether there is a likelihood of repetition. In short, the Registrant's conduct was prolonged, serious and harmful to both Client A and the profession. He demonstrated little insight into this and provided insufficient evidence to suggest he is either willing or able to remediate his misconduct.

87. The Panel recognised that whilst regulatory proceedings may have had an adverse impact upon registrants, the public interest outweighs private interests when considering the sanction that is appropriate and necessary to protect the public and meet the overarching objective of public protection.

88. Having reviewed the factors set out above, the Panel went on to consider the appropriate sanction(s) in order of seriousness. It kept the issues of public protection and proportionality at the forefront of its consideration.

a. Apology

The Panel considered that neither a written nor a verbal apology reflected the seriousness of the case nor would it be sufficient to protect the public. No apology had been offered and there was no evidence from which to conclude that the Registrant would be willing to make such an apology now. There was no evidence to suggest an apology would be meaningful given the Registrant's lack of insight, minimisation of culpability and blaming of Client A.

b. Warning

The Panel adopts its above reasoning. It concluded that a written warning would not be sufficient to protect the public or public confidence in the profession. It would not meet the seriousness of the case and there was no evidence from which to conclude the Registrant would accept and learn from such a warning.

c. Written report or oral statement

The Panel adopts the above reasoning. A report or statement would not meet the seriousness of the case nor be sufficient to protect the public. There was insufficient evidence that the Registrant had accepted and reflected upon his wrongdoing.

d. Further training

The Panel adopts the above reasoning. Furthermore, it had seen no evidence of learning to date to meet the risks identified by the Panel.

e. Further supervision or therapy

The Panel adopts the above reasoning. It determined that supervision and therapy do not meet the seriousness of the case and would not protect the public. It noted that such supervision as the Registrant undertook during his prolonged course of misconduct was insufficient to protect the public. There was no evidence from which to conclude that further supervision or any form of therapy would do so. Regarding therapy, whilst the Registrant may have health issues these were not causative or contributory to his misconduct.

f. Conditions of Practice Order

The Panel next considered whether the impairment could be addressed by placing conditions on the Registrant's practice. It determined that it could not. A Conditions of Practice Order did not address the seriousness of this Panel's findings. The Registrant stated that he is not in the UK and has no plans to return. He said he was travelling regularly every few months [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No conditions were suggested and the Panel was of the view that none could be devised such as would protect the public.

g. Suspension Order

The Panel recognised that suspending the Registrant may protect the public in the short-term but it considered it would not do so in the long-term. The Panel was also of the view that suspension was not sufficient to maintain public confidence in the profession. The Registrant had engaged in a lengthy course of conduct involving many breaches of sexual boundaries. He created the space and conditions to do so. He caused harm to Client A and to the reputation of the profession. He had demonstrated little insight into this to date and there was no evidence from which to conclude that a period of suspension would engender such insight.

h. Removal from UKCP Register

(i) Finally, the Panel considered removing the Registrant from the UKCP register. It adopted all its above reasoning and concluded that Removal was the only sanction proportionate to the seriousness of the case and such as would protect the public and public confidence in the profession. The Registrant had engaged in a prolonged course of egregious misconduct and had little insight into his impairment. He demonstrated little awareness of the harm he had caused to Client A or to the profession as a whole. Whilst the Registrant spoke of the impact upon himself there was little evidence of reflection, learning, insight

or consideration of how he may change to protect the public and the reputation of the psychotherapeutic profession. The Panel saw insufficient evidence to suggest that he was capable of such consideration or change. It therefore concluded that there remained a serious risk to the public and to the reputation of the profession. As such Removal was the only sanction that would protect the public and the profession.

- (ii) The Panel was satisfied that no other sanction would mark the seriousness of the case or maintain public confidence in the profession or its regulator. No other sanction would demonstrate that such behaviour plays no part in the psychotherapeutic profession and was wholly contrary to the standards expected of a registered professional.

89. The Panel determined that the appropriate sanction is Removal of the Registrant from the UKCP Register.

Application for an interim suspension order

90. Ms Chapman submitted that an Interim Suspension Order (ISO) was necessary to cover the appeal period in this case and the time taken for any appeal to be determined should one be lodged.

91. The Panel accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor.

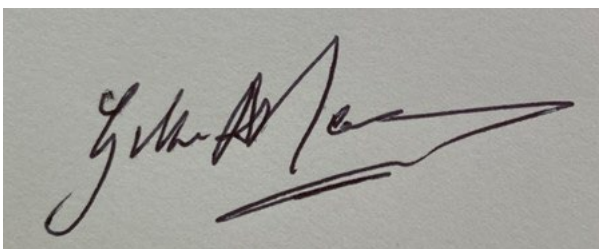
92. The Panel considered that an ISO was necessary to protect the public and was otherwise in the public interest. In addition, not imposing an order would be inconsistent with the Panel's finding of an ongoing risk to the public and to the reputation of the profession.

Right of Appeal

93. Both the Registrant and UKCP have 28 days from when the written decision is served in which to exercise their right of appeal.

94. The sanction outlined above will not take effect until after the 28-day period has lapsed. If no appeal is received the decision will take effect after the 28th day.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gill Madden', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Gill Madden, Lay Chair

22 October 2025