BRITISH ACADEMY
OF AUDIOLOGY

Subject: FTP Improvement Plan
Mr Bernie O'Reilly
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Dear Mr O'Reilly,

We read with interest, your letter *on "Meeting our service standards during a period of unprecedented demand"* with respect to Fitness to Practice referrals (dated 29 July 2026).

It was reassuring to hear that HCPC are investing in Fitness to Practice capacity and improving internal processes and that you have engaged a specialist external organisation to support with routine case updates and communications in the short term.

We would be grateful if you could share any current timelines for planned improvements to the Fitness to Practise process, together with your target timescales for reaching decisions on whether concerns will progress beyond the initial investigation stage.

We ask because a number of our members have raised concerns about the length of time they are currently waiting to receive the outcome of initial investigations and understand whether there is a case to answer. While we fully appreciate the importance of a thorough and robust process, prolonged periods of uncertainty can have a significant impact on the wellbeing of the individuals involved, as well as their families.

We would also welcome any information you can provide regarding the anticipated maximum duration of a Fitness to Practise case, from initial referral through to conclusion, and whether the HCPC has target timescales for the different stages of the process.

Any information you are able to share would be greatly appreciated and would help us provide informed support and guidance to our members.

We are also seeking to understand the composition of investigating panels. Although we understand that panel members include members of the public (lay) and registered members of all the professions HCPC regulates, it is unclear whether there is a requirement for at least one panel member to be from the same profession as the registrant under investigation. This is of particular concern when investigating aspects including clinical decision making in audiology, where a panel member may be a Clinical Scientist but within another speciality and not hold the appropriate level of subject knowledge to advise appropriately on this area.

We would welcome an update on Fitness to Practice waiting times, and clarification on the membership of investigating panels.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Saima Rajasingam
President, British Academy of Audiology

Peershaws, Berewyk Hall Court
White Colne, Essex. CO6 2QB
T: +44 (0)1625 290046
E: admin@baaudiology.org
W: www.baaudiology.org

Company Reg N° 4950685
VAT Reg N° GB100245384