

## FOI Request Response information

FOI request reference:	2016/123
Date request received:	18/05/2016
Date request responded to:	08/06/2016
Category:	Workforce
Tags:	Social workers, registration

### Request Detail:

#### Registration of Social Workers

1. When recruiting social workers has Lancashire Care Foundation Trust previously required their social workers to be registered with the General Social Care Council and since the demise of GSCC are social workers required to be registered with its replacement body known as the Health and Care Professions Council ?
2. Is registration with the General Social Care Council or Health and Care Professions Council considered an essential criteria for the employment of social workers by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and/or social workers who, although may not be directly employed by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust may be managed by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust through management arrangements with another body.
3. If such registration is required and is regarded as essential criteria, then please explain why it is regarded as an essential criteria.

### Response Detail:

The Trust response to your recent FOI request is as follows:

1. When recruiting social workers has Lancashire Care Foundation Trust previously required their social workers to be registered with the General Social Care Council and since the demise of GSCC are social workers required to be registered with its replacement body known as the Health and Care Professions Council ? **Yes. Social Workers have to be registered and this is checked as part of recruitment.**
2. Is registration with the General Social Care Council or Health and Care Professions Council considered an essential criteria for the employment of social workers by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and/or social workers who, although may not be directly employed by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust may be managed by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust through management arrangements

with another body. Yes. This is an essential criteria if employed directly by LCFT. Where there are examples of integrated teams, we would expect the host organisation to have undertaken checks to this specification.

3. If such registration is required and is regarded as essential criteria, then please explain why it is regarded as an essential criteria. NHS Employers states social workers have to meet the HCPC standards of proficiency relevant to their area of practice. This is regulated through the requirement of HCPC registration. Agenda for Change also requires expertise with a specialism which includes degree level or vocational qualification.

is it considered by LCFT, that HCPC registration implies that a person is fit to practise in the relevant profession as defined by the relevant HCPC standards.

If a professional body website is indicating that someone has registration and there are no restrictions on their practice, then it has to be assumed that the professional body regards that individual as fit to practice.