

Bulletin

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2009. Already, this year has been busy in the continuing development of the register. Work is continuing on the regulation of practitioners, and a number of very helpful responses have been received on the consultation together with successful events held around the UK. The UKPHR Board will consider the results of the consultation at the May Board meeting and it is envisaged that with an agreement by the UKPHR Board of a suitable framework with a relevant assessment process it will move to working with early implementers in the last quarter of this year. The register has been mindful to involve other stakeholders with all aspects of the project, such as the Faculty of Public Health and from an employer's perspective the National Public Health Service for Wales, amongst many others.

It is appreciated that many registrants will shortly be reaching their five year registration date and the UKPHR Board is continuing to work on revalidation. With the recommendations within the White Paper: Trust Assurance and Safety, Regulation in the 21st century discussion and consultation will take place with other regulators, and membership organisations, that are also developing a system. Regular updates on the progress will be posted on the website and also emailed to those current registrants who have signed up to receive newsletters. If you are registered with us, and have not yet signed up for this please go to the website to register.

The UKPHR has agreed a proposal from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health for a route that will be termed the 'developmental' route. It was designed initially to support CIEH members who have not had access to defined specialist training and could not therefore submit an entire portfolio that would meet all the competencies, to the UKPHR, but will be open to all potential applicants. The portfolio will be submitted in a series of submissions and will be assessed at exactly the same level as the current defined portfolios are assessed. After each submission, which will be a limited number, an applicant may 'bank' competencies met and then work towards submitting additional competencies.

They must initially produce a satisfactory personal development plan, with a suitable mentor and a mechanism to identify and fill their gaps in the competencies, to show that they have the support to complete the process. There will be a fee charged for each submission and the process must be completed within a three year period. If not completed within three years an applicant will fail the process.

Once an application is complete, and all competencies are satisfied, CIEH will submit confirmation of this to the UKPHR, whose Registration Panel will then recommend an applicant for admission to the register and this will then be ratified by the UKPR Board and the applicant will be admitted to the register. CIEH will manage the entire process, although initially it will use the UKPHR assessors for the process. It should be noted that although this is managed by CIEH it will not only be open to those with an environmental health background.

For full details of the process please contact Gary Telfer (g.telfer@cieh.org) at the CIEH.

At the recent Board meeting in March, Professor Jim McEwen announced that he will be stepping down as Chair of the UKPHR Board this year. He has completed six years as Chair and the UKPHR will now look for a suitable replacement to be appointed in the summer. Lillian Somerville, the current Vice Chair will remain for a further period.

From 1 July 2009, which will be the renewal date for all specialist registrants, a direct debit facility will be available and letters and forms for this will be sent out shortly so registrants can set up the facility if they wish to use it.

As a reminder please note that the UKPHR now has a common renewal date for all specialist registrants of 1 July; the revalidation date of five years from the date of registration will remain.

A request has been received from the CIEH to place information in this bulletin about the widening of their membership process. The information is below.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health wants to widen the scope of those who can qualify for 'ordinary' (or full, voting) membership. It has introduced a new assessment procedure in order to facilitate this and is now keen to encourage membership from senior professionals working across the Public Health agenda. In order to apply for the assessment, you must have a relevant degree and a relevant professional qualification. You must also submit for assessment a portfolio of evidence.

The portfolio has to include: A full CV; a copy of your degree certificate and other relevant academic qualifications; evidence of a professional qualification; evidence of working at senior level, with at least 5 years post-qualification experience; examples your work in your chosen subject area that demonstrate your ability to undertake your work in a professional manner; and a 3000 word case study demonstrating application of technical knowledge in your chosen subject area. After an initial check to ensure that you are working at the required level, you will be invited to a professional interview. The interview will be based on your submitted portfolio.

Anyone interested in finding out more details about this, should contact Gary Telfer (g.telfer@cieh.org) at the CIEH.

The total number on the full register is now 361 with 299 through portfolio assessment, 56 through the Faculty standard training route and also 6 with dual registration.

The UKPHR is now looking to appoint new assessors so if anyone would like to be considered, or wishes to be involved in any of the registers projects or advisory committees then please write to Rodrigo Voss at UKPHR, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ.

Please refer to the register website at www.publichealthregister.org.uk to download a full briefing pack for the defined specialist route to the register and for information about other routes to registration, summary Board minutes and previous Bulletin

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