

7th October 2004
NEWS RELEASE

A caution for Kettering chiropodist from UK health regulator

A chiropodist from Kettering has been cautioned by the Health Professions Council. Dermot Fox will be able to continue practising using the legally protected title 'chiropodist', but the caution will be against his name for 12 months.

A panel of the Conduct and Competence committee met to consider the case of Dermot Fox on 4th October. They heard that he had been convicted in 2003 of failing to provide a specimen of breath. He was ordered to undertake a Community Rehabilitation Order, a Community punishment, to pay costs, and disqualified from driving for 3 years.

The panel also heard that he was subsequently convicted of breaching a Community and Rehabilitation Order and was fined and ordered to pay costs. It was alleged that these convictions meant he was not fit to practise as a chiropodist.

Robert Clegg, the chair of the panel, said, "We acknowledge that Mr Fox has been rigorously dealt with by the courts in respect of the initial offence and that occurred over two years ago, during which time there have been no further lapses.

"However, we all concluded that the registrant breached his obligations by failing to provide a specimen of breath and further breached his obligations to comply with the rehabilitation order which was imposed.

"His behaviour during this process has been well below the standards one might reasonably expect of a registrant, in particular his behaviour towards the female police officers.

In these circumstances we believe to take no further action would be inappropriate and that a caution for a 12 month period is appropriate."

The Health Professions Council is a UK wide health regulator set up to protect the public. It sets standards for twelve health professions. The HPC only registers people who meet its standards for their professional skills, behaviour and health, and will take action against people who do not.