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NEWS RELEASE

### **Conditions of practice for Hove speech and language therapist**

A speech and language therapist from Hove must complete a specialised training course before being able to treat patients again unsupervised. These were the findings from a hearing of the Conduct and Competence committee of the Health Professions Council where it was alleged that Joe Osmond, a registered speech and language therapist, was not fit to practise because he was not competent.

The panel heard evidence from witnesses and details of the alleged lack of competence. These included allegations that Mr Osmond failed to provide speech and language therapy input for patients, failed to reassess a patient, proposed a diet without a comprehensive assessment, and failed to provide information for a carer about puree diets.

Helen Davis, chair of the panel, said, "We conclude that the founded matters do amount to a lack of competence on the part of Mr.Osmond. Therefore, fitness to practise was affected and patients put at risk.

"We do not accept the submissions on Mr.Osmond's behalf that the culture of the department or the supervision system affected the clinical decision making in these cases. Whilst we have considered his personal circumstances, we do not accept this affected the requirement to practise to the required standard. We have considered submissions regarding different therapeutic approaches, but do not find these relevant to the deficiencies in this case.

"We do believe these deficiencies can be rectified. We are imposing the following Conditions of Practice Order for 18 months. These are:

- 1) That you attend and complete a Dysphagia update course relevant to patients with neurological disorders, at the earliest opportunity.
- 2) You must not engage in practice involving Dysphagic patients save where you are supervised by a named supervisor. Such supervision is to include a reflective practitioners' diary. Regular meetings (at least once a month) with the named supervisor in which clinical decision making and case management are reviewed.
- 3) You advise any potential employer of the conditions on your registration."

Mr Osmond can continue to practise, and to use the legally protected title of 'speech and language therapist', but must comply with these conditions in order to remain registered.

The hearing lasted from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, and took place in the HPC's Council chamber in Kennington, South-East London.

ENDS

Rachel Tripp  
Communications Officer  
Health Professions Council [www.hpc-uk.org](http://www.hpc-uk.org)  
[rachel.tripp@hpc-uk.org](mailto:rachel.tripp@hpc-uk.org) 020 7840 9760

#### Notes to editors

1. The Health Professions Council is a UK-wide regulator, which sets standards for twelve health professions. The HPC only registers people who meet its standards for their professional skills, behaviour and health.
2. Full details of this case including the notice of allegation, panel's findings, and particulars of lack of competence, will be posted on the HPC website here:  
<http://www.hpc-uk.org/legal/ftp/HPC-03-SL-055.htm>
3. Information about the HPC's fitness to practise proceedings can be found on the HPC website here: [www.hpc-uk.org/legal](http://www.hpc-uk.org/legal)

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