

English Language Proficiency Survey - October 2023

Individual or Organisation

Are you responding to this consultation on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

Organisation Respondents Details

Please tell us the full name of your organisation.

Royal College of Occupational Therapists

Please select the category below that best describes your organisation.

Professional body or trade union

Where is your organisation active?

UK-wide

Please tell us the contact email for your organisation

~~redacted~~

Consultation Document Questions - 1

Question 1.

Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove self-declaration of English as a first language language as evidence allowing international applicants to join the register?

Fully agree

Please explain your reasoning below.

The removal of self-declaration will help to promote both equality and equity for all international applicants applying to join the HCPC register.

a) Show that they are proficient enough in English to practise safely and effectively?

Agree

b) Feel confident in their own English proficiency?

Agree

c) Easily join the register?

Agree

Question 3:

We are proposing the adoption of a list of majority English speaking ("qualifying") countries in which international applicants could show that they have gained a primary qualification for their intended registered role. This would then evidence their proficiency in English.

Would a 75% English speaking population be an appropriate test for countries to be on our qualifying list?

Neutral / unsure

Please explain your reasoning below, and suggest any alternatives if applicable.

It is difficult to make a judgment regarding this.

Question 4:

Separately to considering where qualifications are gained, should we accept evidence of registered work experience in a listed country where English is spoken by a majority as their first language?

Yes

Please explain your reasoning below.

Yes, if the applicant can provide evidence of registered work experience.

Question 5:

Separately to considering where qualifications are gained, should we accept evidence of work experience in the UK if this has been supervised by a registered health and social care professional?

Yes

Please explain your reasoning below.

This would provide evidence that the applicant is proficient in English.

Question 6:

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to expand our list of approved test providers? Please explain your answer.

Yes

Please explain your reasoning below.

This would help to maintain standards and ensure equity.

Question 7:

In addition to our current approved providers, are there any other test providers whose tests we should consider accepting as evidence of English language proficiency?

If so, please give details in the box below.

N/A

Question 8:

Should our list of approved tests be exhaustive?

Yes

Question 9:

Please tell us which of the below statements you agree with the most:

Statement 1) Overall, these proposals provide greater assurance that applicants' proficiency in English is sufficient for them to practise safely and effectively

Statement 2) Overall, these proposals provide the same assurance that applicants' proficiency in English is sufficient for them to practise safely and effectively

Statement 3) Overall, these proposals provide less assurance that applicants' proficiency in English is sufficient for them to practise safely and effectively

Statement 1

Question 10:

In addition to the equality impacts set out in the Equalities Impact Assessment, can you identify any further impacts relating to protected characteristics that we should consider?

The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Ethnicity
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

You may also consider other ways people's background might mean an adverse impact, for example if applicants are refugees or forcibly displaced people, or how their socio-economic status might affect things.

Do you have any suggestions about how any negative equality impacts you have identified could be mitigated?

By ensuring that people are treated equitably i.e. that their personal circumstances are taken into consideration where possible.

Question 11:

Do you have any further comments to make about the proposals and information in the consultation?

It is positive that HCPC are proposing to widen sources of evidence to increase opportunities to meet the required levels of English proficiency. It would be beneficial for HCPC to link with Higher Education Institutions regarding their Allied Health Professions courses entry requirement to mirror the HCPC proposals.

Submit response

This is the end of the survey. Please indicate select "Submit my responses" once you are ready to end the session.

Submit my response.