



**UK Society for
Behaviour Analysis**

Position Statement on Accreditation

Committee responsible: Marketing and
Communications Committee
Approved by: UK-SBA Board
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Introduction

1.1 The UK-SBA was set up on 27th April 2012 with the primary strategic aim of achieving statutory protection of title or equivalent external recognition for behaviour analysts in the United Kingdom. Three options were identified for achieving protection of title, with the aim of demonstrating the integrity and professionalism of behaviour analysts in the UK and the protection and public benefit that would bring to those who use the services of behaviour analysts. Those options were:

- Privy Council Chartership
- HCPC statutory protection of title
- Professional Standards Authority 'assured register' status

1.3 This position statement outlines the actions the UK-SBA has taken, and is taking, to deliver this key strategic aim and our rationale for progressing a register and applying to the Professional Standards Authority for assured register status

Privy Council Chartership

2.1 A Royal Charter would allow the UK-SBA to refer to itself as "Chartered". A professional body may apply for a Royal Charter if they represent a field of activity which is unique and not covered by other professional bodies, if it is in the public interest, and if at least 75% of the corporate members are qualified to first degree level standard.

2.2 The granting of new Charters is comparatively rare and reserved for eminent professional bodies or charities that have a solid record of achievement and are financially sound. The criteria for Chartership are:

(a) The institution concerned should comprise members of a unique profession, and should have as members most of the eligible field for membership, without significant overlap with other bodies.

(b) Corporate members of the institution should be qualified to at least first degree level in a relevant discipline;

(c) The institution should be financially sound and able to demonstrate a track record of achievement over a number of years;

(d) Incorporation by Charter is a form of Government regulation as future amendments to the Charter and by-laws of the body require Privy Council (i.e. Government) approval. It would therefore be necessary to demonstrate that regulating the body in this way is in the public interest;

(e) The institution is normally expected to be of substantial size (5,000 members or more).

2.4 The UK-SBA would have to publicly petition for a Charter. The Privy Council encourages institutions to take soundings among other bodies who may have an interest in order to minimise the risk of a counter-petition (the Privy Council is unlikely to consider an application which may be controversial).

2.5 In view of the above, the UK-SBA decided not to pursue Chartership.

HCPC Statutory Protection of Title

3.1 When the UK-SBA was formed, the aim was to pursue registration with The Health Care Professions Council (HCPC).

3.2 The HCPC regulates 15 professions. The Health Professions Order 2001 gives the HCPC discretionary powers to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Health and to Scottish Ministers for the regulation of additional groups.

3.3. However, with the publication of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011, and with it the Professional Standards Authority's new responsibility for voluntary regulation (see below) the HCPC is no longer considering applications.

Professional Standards Authority "assured" register

4.1 The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 established the Professional Standards Authority (PSA - formerly the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, CHRE) with new responsibility to accredit Voluntary Registers in the Health and Social Care sector (in this context "voluntary" means that the profession is "volunteering" to police itself. It does not mean that members of the UK-SBA "volunteer" to be on the register). The Professional Standards Authority launched a scheme to quality assure such registers. The scheme is designed to appeal to organisations that would otherwise wish to achieve HCPC protection of title.

4.2 Becoming a PSA accredited register will not give statutory protection to the title 'behaviour analyst'. This channel is more about 'customer focus' and public choice/confidence in the ability of such registers to self-govern in the public interest. It is however a first step which will ensure behaviour analysts do get recognition as a profession that is regulated, has status, and is on a par with other health and social care professionals.

4.3 Additional reasons for pursuing PSA accreditation include:

- The UK-SBA meets the criteria for this type of regulation
- Assured register status provides public protection and enhances the status of the profession in the UK
- Assured register status means registrants can display a PSA quality kite mark
- It would provide an effective audit trail for a later application under options 1 or 2 above
- It does not require significant numbers of practitioners
- It is financially viable
- It can be changed incrementally as the UK-SBA grows and develops
- It allows the UK-SBA to address aspects of UK requirements that BACB registration alone does not
- It is embedded in the UK health and social care system and will give UK practitioners additional mainstream approval.

- By setting minimum standards it should improve practice and offer consumers additional protection.

4.4. In order to progress an application, the UK-SBA first had to create a Register of practitioners, which we launched in May 2019. In Nov 2020, we applied to the PSA for "assured register" status. At the time of writing, July 2021, we await the PSA's decision.

The UK Society for Behaviour Analysis.