

# **PART 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document sets out the responses to the Law Commissions' consultation paper, Regulation of Health Care Professionals; Regulation of Social Care Professionals in England.<sup>1</sup> It describes the views of consultees in relation to each of the 111 provisional proposals and 66 consultation questions put forward.

### **The consultation process**

- 1.2 The consultation paper was published on 1 March 2012. The public consultation process ran from publication until 31 May 2012, and we received 192 submissions. These were received from a wide range of consultees which included:

- (1) the relevant Government departments for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland;
- (2) the regulators, the Professional Standards Authority, the Northern Ireland Social Care Council, the Scottish Care Council and the Care Council for Wales;
- (3) non-departmental public bodies, including the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Care Quality Commission;
- (4) 26 professional representative bodies;
- (5) defence organisations and unions;
- (6) patient representative groups and charities, including the Patients Association, Action Against Medical Accidents and the NSPCC;
- (7) 4 local authorities;
- (8) 7 NHS Trusts;
- (9) academics and legal practitioners; and
- (10) individual health and social care practitioners and patients.

- 1.3 A full list of formal written responses is provided in Appendix A. In addition, the Law Commission attended 44 events across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. These events covered a wide audience, including regulators, professional bodies, academics, legal practitioners and defence organisations. A full list of events attended is provided in Appendix B.

- 1.4 We are very grateful to all those who took part in consultation events and submitted formal responses.

<sup>1</sup> Regulation of Health Care Professionals, Regulation of Social Care Professionals in England (2012) Law Commission Consultation Paper No 202; Northern Ireland Law Commission Consultation Paper No 12; Scottish Law Commission Discussion Paper No 153.

**Next steps**

- 1.5 Nothing in this document should be read as indicating that the Law Commissions have come to any conclusions about our final recommendations. All of our provisional proposals will be reviewed in the light of the evidence received at the consultation events and the formal responses to our consultation paper from individuals and organisations. Our final report and draft Bill will be published in early 2014.