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# **Fitness to practise and implications for other regulatory activities both current and future**

Tim Walker, General Osteopathic Council  
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# Introduction

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- Strategic context – identifying pro-active, preventative regulatory measures
- Data available and its limitations
- Initiatives informed by the work
- Professional/organisational context – size, distribution, institutional/governance challenges



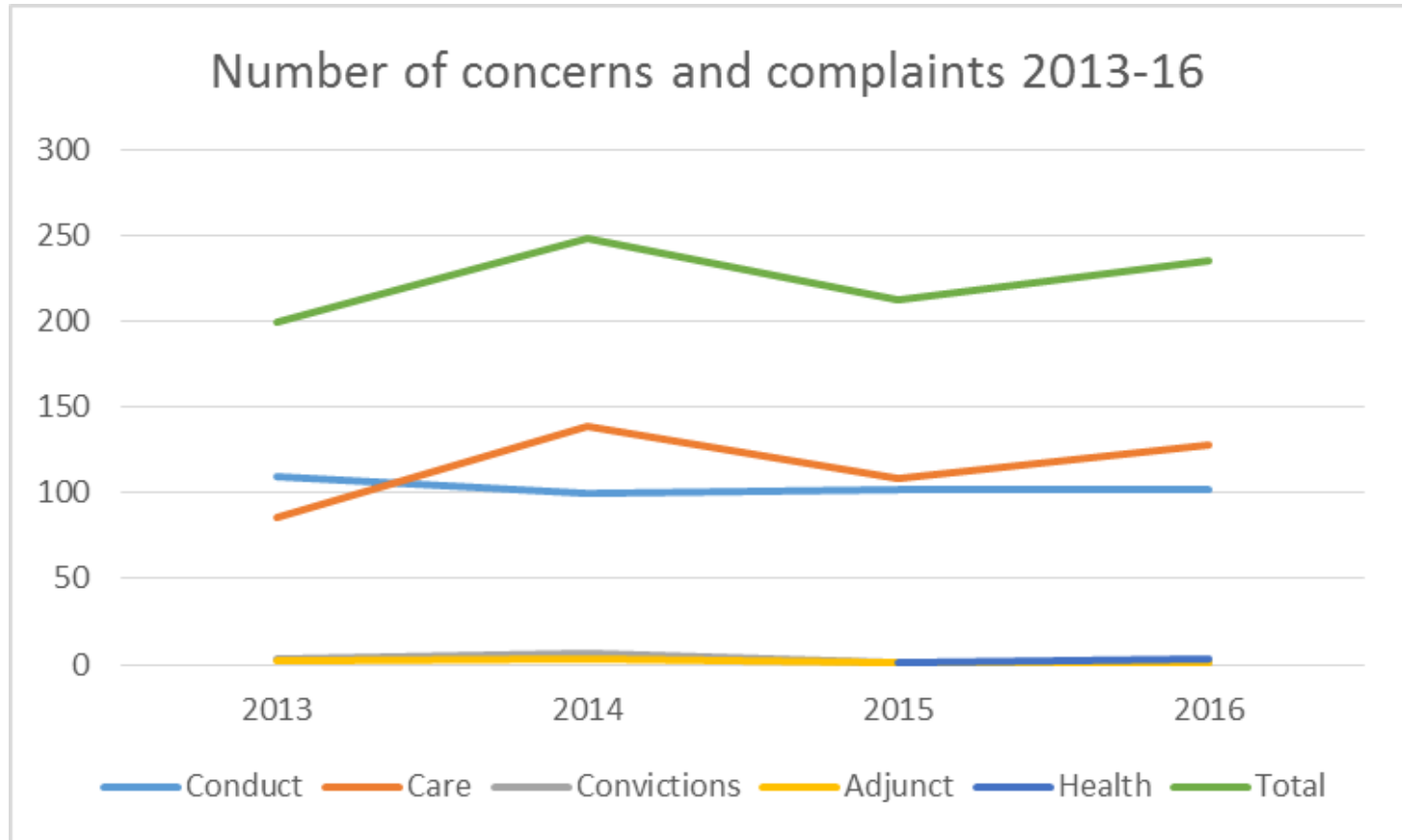
# Types of concerns

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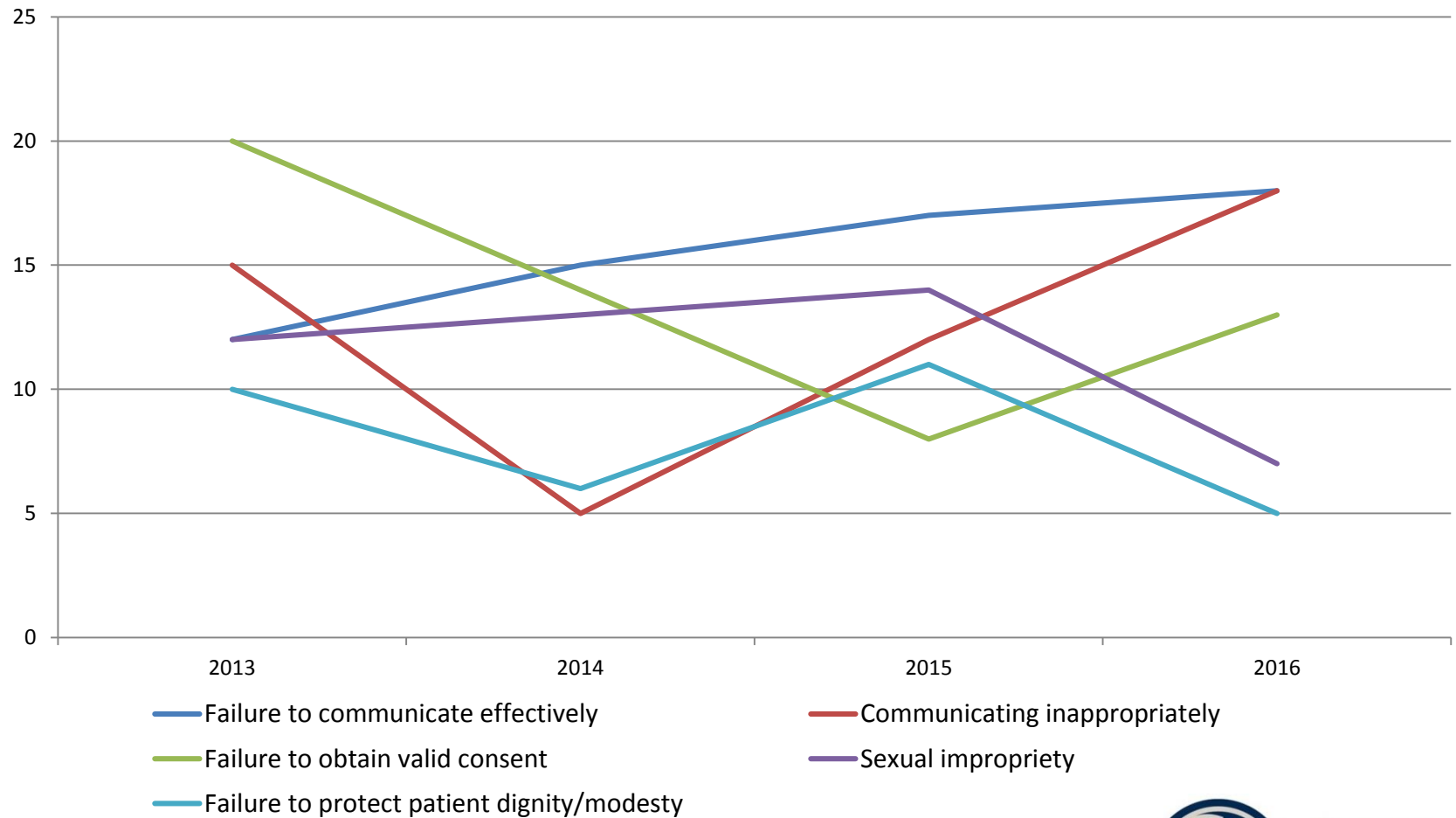
- Unique data collection partnership between regulator, professional indemnity insurers and professional association
- Common classification scheme for both conduct and clinical complaints, claims and concerns
- Data now available over four year period 2013-16



# Trends



# Key conduct concerns



# Fitness to practise data analysis

- Analysis of 131 individuals investigated by the GOsC 2011-16 (n.b. not all resulted in an adverse finding)
- Headline findings:
  - 71% male, 29% female
  - Median age 46
  - Peak between 6-15 years after graduation
  - Age at graduation appears to be a factor (>30s more likely to be investigated)
- Key question is how to make best use of this data



# Policy responses

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## CPD

- Requirement for objective feedback
- Mandatory communication and consent
- Peer review

## Boundaries

- Thematic review on undergraduate teaching/institutional response
- Enhanced standards
- Literature review (joint with GCC) and potential further research

## Values

- Developmental research on tools to support patients to express what is important to them within consultations (joint with GDC)

## Resources

- Communication and consent materials
- Registrant communications strategy



# Values

## THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN VISITING AN OSTEOPATH

### Things I need to know ahead of my consultation



What might my treatment involve?



How much will my consultations cost?



How long will it take?



Can I bring a chaperone?



What should I wear?

### Your osteopath will want to know about you as a person, so it's useful to consider beforehand:



What matters or what is important to me?



What are my expectations of osteopathic treatment?



What are my goals in relation to my health and wellbeing?



Do I have any preferences, concerns or queries about osteopathic treatment?

### During or after my consultation



It's OK to ask questions at any point during or after my consultation



Patient feedback is often encouraged by osteopaths to improve their consultations and patient experience



What can I do to help my treatment in my own time?

- Series of developmental workshops with patients and practitioners (joint with GDC)
- Resources in development for pilot, e.g. infographics, animations, patient and practitioner advice
- Plan to evaluate with Consultation and Relational Empathy (CARE<sup>©</sup>) measure [www.caremeasure.org](http://www.caremeasure.org)



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# Evaluating CPD

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- Longitudinal survey of changes to CPD practice
- Response rate 2017-18 – 10% (up from 7% in year 1)
- Headlines:
  - 29% seek external feedback (up 3%)
  - 58% undertook an activity relating to communication/ consent (static)
  - Increased use of *Osteopathic Practice Standards* to identify CPD needs or record CPD (up 13%)
  - 77% discuss CPD with colleagues (up 1%)
  - 90% have access to a peer to discuss practice (up 5%)



# Future questions/challenges

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- CPD – proxy measures for patient care, anecdotal stories about ‘making a difference’
- Boundaries – reduction in ‘sexual impropriety concerns’ but numbers are small
- Values – use of CARE measure will show direct patient impact
- How to show we have made a positive difference over time?
- Concerns data shows negative not positive aspects of practice
- What other approaches might we take to evaluation?
- Causation (or lack of)



# References

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