

Education and Training Committee – 11 June 2009

Ronin Protective and Paramedical Services South Africa

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

The IHCD paramedic award delivered jointly by Ronin Protective and Paramedical Services, South Africa (Ronin) and South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SWAST) was previously accredited by the IHCD.

The Education and Training Committee made the decision at their meeting in March 2008 to regard individual sites of delivery as the education provider for IHCD awards and the IHCD as the validating body.

Additionally in March 2008, the Education and Training Committee also made the decision that it was not possible to approve programmes or franchised and collaborative programmes which are delivered outside of the UK by a non-UK education provider. It is however, still possible for a UK education provider to deliver a programme in whole or in part overseas.

The Education Department sent a form to the education provider to gather information about whether the programme delivered jointly by Ronin and SWAST was either:

- a programme or franchised and collaborative programme delivered outside of the UK by a non-UK education provider; or
- a programme delivered in whole or in part by a UK education provider.

Based on the information provided by Ronin and SWAST, the Executive with legal advice from HPC's Solicitor have made the decision that the IHCD paramedic award delivered jointly by Ronin and SWAST must be considered to be a programme or franchised and collaborative programme delivered outside of the UK by a non-UK education provider.

The Education and Training Committee are asked to make a decision on the approval, to the extent that it was ever approved, of the IHCD paramedic award delivered by Ronin and SWAST. Ronin and SWAST have provided observations, for the Committee to consider in reaching their decision, on correspondence informing them of the decision of the Executive.

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2009-05-29	a	EDU	PPR	Ronin - Ongoing approval decision paper	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

The Committee is also asked to note the correspondence received from the Health Professions Council of South Africa.

For information, SWAST were also subject to an approval visit for the UK based IHCD paramedic award delivered at SWAST. This programme had its approval reconfirmed at the Education and Training Panel meeting on 2 February 2009.

Decision

The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the appeal on the decision of the Executive to consider the IHCD paramedic award delivered by Ronin and SWAST as a programme or franchised and collaborative programme delivered outside of the UK by a non-UK education provider. The Committee is asked articulate and agree the reasons for their decision so that they may be communicated to Ronin and SWAST.

Dependent on the above the decision the Committee is then asked to:

- Consider the continued approval, to the extent that it was ever approved, of the IHCD paramedic award delivered by Ronin and SWAST. The Committee is asked articulate and agree the reasons for their decision so that they may be communicated to Ronin and SWAST.
- Consider a response, if one is required, to the Health Professions Council South Africa from the Committee.

Background information

- "Pre-registration education and training for Paramedics", Education and Training Committee, March 2008, enclosure 14.
- "Approval of overseas qualifications", Education and Training Committee, March 2008, enclosure 15.
- Education and Training Panel Decisions from meeting held on 10 February 2009.

Resource implications

As this programme is delivered outside the UK, any individuals commencing the programme following a decision to withdraw approval will no longer be eligible to apply for registration through the UK approved programme route. In future, individuals will need to apply through the International route to registration.

If the decision is made to regard the programme as a programme delivered in whole or in part by a UK education provider, then this programme will need to undergo an approval visit. There will be associated time implications for arranging a visit overseas.

Financial implications

If the decision is made to regard the programme as a programme delivered in whole or in part by a UK education provider, then this programme will need to undergo an approval visit. There will be associated cost implications for arranging a visit overseas.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Letter to Ronin to determine nature of programme
- Appendix 2 – Completed information form from Ronin
- Appendix 3 – Executive decision to Education Provider
- Appendix 4 – HPCSA letter
- Appendix 5 – Observations on decision of Executive

Date of paper

29 May 2009

Adv. Irvine-Smith
Ronin Protective Services cc
P.O. Box 26706,
Hout Bay 7872
South Africa

President: Dr Anna van der Gaag
Chief Executive and Registrar: Marc Seale

27 February 2009

Dear Adv. Irvine-Smith,

Thank you for your letter dated 27 December 2008. It was passed to me as I am the Education Manager reviewing our recent programme of visits to the IHCD paramedic programmes delivered in the UK.

As you discussed with HPC's solicitor and my colleague Tracey Samuel-Smith some time ago, HPC is prevented by its governing legislation from approving qualifications awarded by institutions outside of the UK. We are only able to approve programmes delivered by UK institutions. A UK institution may deliver all or part of an approved programme overseas, but the UK institution must be responsible for the delivery of the programme and operating the same processes abroad as they would in the UK. That exception is very limited and is designed to allow, for example, students on UK-based programmes to go on clinical placements in the Irish Republic.

In order to make an informed decision about this matter, HPC must gather further information from both Ronin and South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust. Therefore, please could you complete the form enclosed in this letter and return it to me. You may wish to consider completing the form with the assistance of staff at South West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

The answers to the questions will allow us to make a decision about whether the Ronin programme can be considered for approval. If the decision is made to enter into the approval process, then a full approval visit is very likely to be required to review the programme against all the standards of education and training.

If the programme cannot be considered for approval then, to the extent that the Ronin programme is regarded as an approved qualification, that approval will be withdrawn. Withdrawal of approval will not have an impact on individuals who have already successfully completed the programme or those individuals currently on the programme. If those individuals successfully complete the

programme they will be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council.

I look forward to receiving your response and the completed form.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Osama Ammar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Osama Ammar
Education Manager

cc. David Halliwell (South West Ambulance NHS Trust)

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2009-02-27	b	EDU	COR	Letter to Ronin to determine approval status	Final DD: None	Confidential RD: None

Franchise / Overseas Education Programme Information Form

The Health Professions Council cannot approve qualifications offered by overseas institutions as it is restricted in our guiding legislation (the Health Professions Order, 2001). However, programmes delivered by UK education providers overseas may be eligible to enter into the approval process where the overseas delivery is conducted by the UK institution. This form is designed to gather information on the extent of responsibility a UK education provider takes in the following areas of a programme delivered overseas:

- conferment of awards;
- admission processes;
- management and resources;
- curriculum delivery and teaching and learning;
- placement management and co-ordination; and
- assessment processes.

This form can also be used for programmes delivered within the UK at satellite or franchise sites to determine if there is a requirement for a separate approval visit to the secondary site.

The information provided in response to the questions on this form will be the basis of a decision on whether or not to initiate an approval visit to a franchise or overseas education programme.

Please complete the form as fully as possible. The form is designed to be completed electronically.

1. Conferment of awards

- 1a. Which institution awards the qualification that leads to eligibility to apply to the HPC Register?

SWAST & IHCD - The SWAST paramedic Programme - recently approved by HPC builds on students who are Existing IHCD technicians with 1500 clinical hours - valid pre-test etc

SWAST are the ultimate awarding Institution - leading to HPC registration

2. Admission processes

- 2a. Which institutions are involved in the admissions procedures? Please provide details of the institution which sets entry requirements and assesses applicants through application forms or interviews.

The process used in Ronin is the same as that used in SWAST - recently HPC approved

- 2b. Which institution takes responsibility for implementing and monitoring equality and diversity policies regarding applicants to the programme?

SWAST - SWAST does all monitoring, although the IHCD - roy dearnley and Alan howson have previously been responsible for Quality monitoring modules D,E,F - (ambulance Technician) upon which this course is built.

3. Management and resources

- 3a. What is the funding source for the programme and which institutions receive funding?

There is no national funding - Student pays course fees - although some students are using Military Resettlement

- 3b. Are there any formal agreements between institutions in place for the provision of education? If so, please provide a copy of each formal agreement with your response.

The Ronin campus is seen as a SWAST Training Center so we have no agreement necessary

- 3c. With which institution do permanent members of staff have contracts?

Ronin South Africa and South Western Ambulance NHS Trust

- 3d. With which institution do sessional or visiting staff have contracts?

SWAST

- 3e. Which institution is responsible for development of staff delivering the programme and in placement?

SWAST & Ronin SA

- 3f. Which institution is responsible for the production and dissemination of information for students to assist them in induction and throughout the programme?

SWAST has been responsible - and uses the same resources that are used in its other colleges - recently HPC approved

- 3g. Which institution is responsible for provision of the learning materials including clinical teaching space, library stock, information technology and teaching rooms?

Ronin SA & the University of Stellenbosh Division of Emergency Care

- 3h. If the programme was to be subject to change (for example from changes to learning outcomes, practice placements or assessments) how would the changes be implemented and which institution would take responsibility for delivering the changes?

SWAST would authorise changes and notify HPC if felt to be a major / minor change as it would with its other programmes

- 3i. If a student wishes to make a complaint about any aspect of the programme, to which institution must it be addressed?

We have an appeals process which sees the Appeal taken through SWAST - students can also use the IHCD appeal system

- 3j. Which institution is responsible for meeting the requirements of professional, statutory or regulatory bodies (PSRB)? Please provide details of the PSRBs related to this programme.

SWAST / Ronin SA / University of Stellenbosch Division of Emergency Care - HPC SA (Temporary Registration to Practice in SA)

The professional body requirements are those laid out by the British Paramedic Association

The course has been matched to SETS /SOPS from the Health Professions council UK

The programme has also been matchaed against QAA benchmark statements

- 3k. Are there regular quality reports required and if so how regular are they and which institutions require them?

SWAST Verification (In Person) of Every Exam Process / Assessment

IHCD - Annual monitoring (Roy Dearnley - EV from IHCD visits each year)

End of course reports are submitted along with Evaluations to SWAST, for review by Director team..

4. Curriculum delivery and teaching and learning

- 4a. Which institution is responsible for the quality assurance of the delivery of the programme?

SWAST

- 4b. Which institution owns the modules or units that comprise the programme?

SWAST

- 4c. Which institution is responsible for curriculum development and the updating of the modules or units?

SWAST

- 4d. Which institution is responsible for the delivery of teaching and learning opportunities to students?

SWAST / Ronin SA - this is a joint delivery - using SWAST tutors to ensure continuity of delivery and resources.

5. Placement management and co-ordination

- 5a. Where are students placed for practical components of the programme? Please provide a list of all placement environments.

Groote Schuur Hospital A&E and Theatre
Mowbray Maternity and Obstetrics Unit
Red Cross Childrens Hospital
Jooste Hospital A&E and Theatre

Ronin also runs its own ambulances which ensures exposure for the students to a population of 6.5 million people in the cape town area

- 5b. Which institution is responsible for the quality assurance of the practice placement environments? This must include ensuring practice environments are safe and also effective learning environments.

SWAST / Ronin SA / University of Stellenbosch

- 5c. Which institution is responsible for the recruitment of practice placement educators? How is this process of recruitment conducted?

SWAST / Ronin SA via permanent Staff

Swast have been running practice placement educator training for some years, and has a small - co-hort of Uk registered and HPC SA registered Paramedics who support the student development. This is overseen by Professor Lee wallace - University of Stellenbosh

- 5d. Which institution is responsible for locating practice placement environments?

SWAST / Ronin SA as above - we aim to comply to the BPA curriculum guidance.

- 5e. Which institution is responsible for ensuring practice placement educators are appropriately trained, registered and updated? How are the above ensured and recorded?

SWAST / Ronin SA by maintenance of Continued Medical Education Portfolios and in house refresher training.

- 5f. Which institution takes responsibility for the student experience on placement, including ensuring students are protected by equality and diversity policies which are effectively implemented and monitored?

SWAST / Ronin SA

6. Assessment processes

- 6a. To which institution do the individuals conducting assessments belong? This response must include information regarding academic and practical assessment both formative and summative.

SWAST - senior SWAST tutors oversee all exams undertaken - including all summative assessments .

- 6b. To which institution do the individuals moderating the assessment belong? This response must include information regarding academic and practical assessment both formative and summative.

SWAST (UK Registered Paramedic Tutors) Theory Assessments
Ronin SA (SA Registered Paramedic Assessors) Theory & Practical Assessments

- 6c. Which institution evaluates the assessment marks and grades to make decisions on individual student achievement and / or progression through the programme?

SWAST

- 6d. To which institution would a student take an appeal related to an assessment mark or grade? Briefly describe the process a student would have to undertake.

SWAST - each and every assessment sheet has a reference to the contact details of Mr David Halliwell as the Principal of the Training College and the final port of call for any request for moderation of any assessment conducted.

- 6e. Which institution recruits and selects the external examiner for the programme?

SWAST

David Halliwell
Human Resources
Head of Department
South Western Ambulance NHS Trust
Headquarters
Abbey Court, Eagle Way
Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter
Devon EX2 7HY

President: Dr Anna van der Gaag
Chief Executive and Registrar: Marc Seale

16 April 2009

Dear David,

Thank you for completing and submitting the *Franchise / Overseas Education Programme Information Form* for both the Ronin and UK Military programmes delivered currently in conjunction with South Western Ambulance Service.

We have made decisions on both of the programmes and articulated them below with the reasons behind the decisions.

UK Military programme

The information provided in the form indicated that there were some differences between the delivery of the SWAST programme and the UK Military programme. These differences are in the following areas:

Admissions process

- The admissions panel is made up of a joint board of SWAST and UK Military staff.

Management and resources

- Funding from the programme comes from UK Military and is paid to SWAST.
- There is no formal agreement in place between SWAST and UK Military.
- Sessional or visiting lecturers may hold UK Military contracts only.
- UK Military have responsibility for the provision of some teaching and learning resources.
- It is unclear currently which institution is responsible for meeting professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements.

Curriculum delivery and teaching and learning

- UK Military and SWAST are jointly responsible for the learning opportunities.

Placement management and co-ordination

- Placements are located jointly by UK Military and SWAST.

The number and nature of these differences is indicative that a separate site visit would be inappropriate. However, evidence must be gathered to show how the standards of education and training linked to the above areas are met.

Accordingly, a documentary assessment of the outlined differences is recommended. Following two attempts at submitting of documents, if there are any standards which are apparently not met, a site visit will be the next available step to place conditions on ongoing approval of the programme.

Ronin programme

The information provided in the form indicated there were a number of significant differences between the delivery of the SWAST programme and the Ronin course. These differences are in the following areas:

Admissions process

- It is stated that the admissions process is the same as the SWAST programme, but there is no information to show how the international nature of the admission process is managed.
- It is stated that SWAST does all monitoring, but it is unclear whether SWAST equality and diversity policies are implemented and monitored in the Ronin programme.

Management and resources

- Funding from the programme comes from individual students, which differs from the model at SWAST.
- There is no formal agreement in place between SWAST and Ronin or University of Stellenbosch.
- Members of permanent staff delivering the programme have contracts with Ronin.
- The responsibility for staff development is shared between SWAST and Ronin.
- Ronin and University of Stellenbosch are partially responsible for learning and teaching resources on the programme
- It is unclear currently which institution is responsible for meeting professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements.

Curriculum delivery and teaching and learning

- Ronin and SWAST are jointly responsible for the learning opportunities.

Placement management and co-ordination

- Placements appear to be solely in South Africa
- Quality assurance of placements is the joint responsibility of SWAST, Ronin and University of Stellenbosch.
- Recruitment of practice educators is conducted jointly by SWAST and Ronin.
- Placements are located jointly by SWAST and Ronin.

President: Dr Anna van der Gaag
Chief Executive and Registrar: Marc Seale

- SWAST and Ronin share responsibility for the training and updating of practice educators.
- SWAST and Ronin share responsibility for student experience on placement, including monitoring of equality and diversity policies.

Assessment

- Assessment moderation is undertaken by SWAST and Ronin contracted staff.

The number and nature of these differences is indicative that the Ronin programme does not meet the requirements of the Health Professions Order, 2001 to be classified as a UK education programme delivered overseas by a UK education provider as many elements of the programme rely on institutions based overseas to be responsible for delivery. As a result of this, to the extent that the Ronin programme is regarded as an approved qualification, that approval will be withdrawn. Withdrawal of approval will not have an impact on individuals who have already successfully completed the programme or those individuals currently on the programme. If those individuals successfully complete the programme they will be eligible to apply for registration with the Health Professions Council. Please can you provide dates for the closure of the programme in the form of a date of the last intake and the date of the expected last completion. In future, individuals wishing to register in the UK who hold this qualification will be able to apply through the International route, though registration cannot be guaranteed.

If you have more information to provide regarding either programme, please do so within 28 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them if you provide them in writing.

Yours sincerely



Osama Ammar
Education Manager

cc. Adv. Timm-Smith

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR EMERGENCY CARE

The CEO
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
LONDON
SE11 4BU

Department: **PROFESSIONAL BOARDS**
General
Manager: Mr B Mbhele
Manager: Mrs A Pieters
My Ref: 19/7/P
Your Ref:
Date: 9 May 2009

E-mail: education@hpc-uk.org
Fax no. 44 20 7820 9684

Dear Sir/Madam

EMERGENCY CARE TRAINING CONDUCTED BY RONIN PROTECTIVE SERVICES – SOUTH AFRICA

We wish to advise that it has come to the attention of the Professional Board for Emergency Care that Ronin Protective Services, an United Kingdom based training institution, is offering education and training in emergency care in South Africa. The Board conducted an inspection at Ronin Protective Services on 11 February 2009. The course content is based on the NHS/British Paramedic training programme. Ronin Protective Services hold accreditation to offer the training under the auspices of Bournemouth University and South Western Ambulance Service who register their students as Emergency Medical Technicians – Paramedic (EMT P). The duration of the training programme is 12 weeks of which 6 weeks is theory and 6 weeks practical.

In terms of Act 16 of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act 56 of 1974) “no person, educational institution or training facility, may offer or provide any education or training having as its object to qualify any person for the practicing of any health profession to which the provisions of this Act, apply, unless such education and training has been accredited by the Professional Board concerned as being appropriate education and training for such purposes.”

The Professional Board for Emergency Care has control over the education and training of Emergency Care Practitioners, Paramedics, Intermediate Life Support Practitioners, Emergency Care Technicians and Basic Life Support Practitioners and all education and training in this regard has to be accredited by the Board. Therefore, it constitutes a contravention of section 16 of the Act if education and training is conducted in South Africa for these professions without accreditation by the Board.

Adv T Smith the CEO of Ronin advised the Board that the training provided by them “ is simply, like ATLS / ACLS / ITLS etc, a foreign qualification and does not have it's object to qualify any person for the practicing of any health profession to which the provisions of the Act apply within the jurisdiction of the Health Professions Council of South Africa. Rather the training provided allows the participant to practice a profession outside of the Health Professions Council of South Africa's jurisdiction i.e. within the United Kingdom Health Professions Council's jurisdiction”

However, these courses require extensive clinical experiential training and it is of great concern to the Board that this training is conducted on the South African public. Furthermore, persons on the Intermediate Life Support register are enrolling for these courses and as a result they are practicing outside their scope of practice, which constitutes a transgression of the Health Professions Act and the Ethical Code.

The Executive Committee of the Board considered the matter at its recent meeting and resolved that you be requested to indicate whether your Council recognises the course in emergency care offered by Ronin Protective Services, South Africa and if their students are allowed to practice in the United Kingdom.

We look forward to hearing from you in the above regard.

Yours faithfully



ADV B M MKHIZE
CEO/REGISTRAR

cc. The CEO
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
LONDON
SE11 4BJ



South Western Ambulance Service



NHS Trust

Education and Professional Development College (East)
42 Portchester Road
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH8 8LE
Tel: 01202 438970 / 438971 Fax: 01202 555672

Our Ref: DH/mjc
Your Ref:

Osama Ammar
Education Manager
Health Professions Council
Park House
184 Kennington Park Road
London, SE11 4BU

1 May 2009

Dear Osama

APPEAL AGAINST HPC DECISION – SWAST SATELLITE (SOUTH AFRICA)

Thank you very much for the feedback you gave us in your email dated 16 April 2009. We intend appealing the decision with each of the differences listed and answered individually below.

Admissions process

“It is stated that the admissions process is the same as the SWAST programme, but there is no information to show how the international nature of the admission process is managed”

SWAST Cape Town applies the identical admissions process as SWAST UK. Where an applicant does not possess an IHCD Ambulance Technician Certificate even though they performed the requisite number of practical hours; the candidate will be referred to the IHCD's nominated External Verifier for the purposes of determining equivalency, which in turn will be accepted by SWAST Cape Town. The applicant will be required to continue through the remainder of the application process namely IHCD Paramedic Pre-Test, Interview and 15 Minute Presentation. Applicants are made aware of the full extent of the Pre-entry requirements when they receive an invoice for their deposit, once deemed eligible.

“It is stated that SWAST does all monitoring, but it is unclear whether SWAST equality and diversity policies are implemented and monitored in the Ronin programme.”

SWAST Cape Town has adopted the SWAST Equality & Diversity policies and ensures that these are monitored in the same way that SWAST monitors its own programme.

Continued/P2

Management and resources

“Funding from the programme comes from individual students, which differs from the model at SWAST”

This is correct. Individual students fund themselves on many programmes within the UK. An example is that SWAST has 17 members of staff who are funding themselves through the Open University route to paramedic. We are unsure why the HPC seeks information relating to student funding but are happy to provide more detail if required”.

“There is no formal agreement in place between SWAST and Ronin or University of Stellenbosch”

A fact that must be born in mind is that the Cape Town Campus aka Ronin has for a long time already been an accredited IHCD Training Centre up to Ambulance Technician Level in its own right.

The IHCD, upon receiving an application from Ronin to increase its tuition level to Paramedic Level, suggested that it was an option to engage in a synergy with a UK Ambulance Service (SWAST) as a satellite training campus for reasons of good governance, and ensuring that the UK Paramedic standards are maintained. Ronin felt that this decision would be in the best interests of Students and quality education and pursued this road as a SWAST satellite college out of choice. A formal written agreement can be compiled between Cape Town and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust should you feel that it is required.

With regards to the arrangement between the Cape Town Campus and the University of Stellenbosch - there exists a reciprocal agreement, whereby students of the University (Department of Emergency Care) i.e. Doctors are permitted to enjoy practical rotations on the SWAST Cape Town’s Ambulance, in return for registering UK Nationals as students with the faculty of Emergency Care at a South African University (Stellenbosch). This ensures compliance with legal requirements regarding the right to engage in patient treatment under supervision on the South African population. There is no further relationship between the entities save that Professor Lee Wallis, Head of the Faculty of Emergency Medicine for the University of Stellenbosch, has a mandate to engage in clinical and ethical governance on all practical rotations within Hospitals and/ or the Ambulance.

This is necessary to ensure that UK students may engage in patient care whilst in South Africa which is provided for under Health Professions Council UK regulations and is no anomaly at all.

“Members of permanent staff delivering the programme have contracts with Ronin”

This is correct in that Ronin is the sub contracted service provider in South Africa. Any training that occurs in South Africa must be conducted by South African Nationals who are state registered Paramedics with the Health Professions Council of South Africa, which Ronin Staff are. SWAST have agreed to give the Ronin tutors honorary status, but again we fail to see how the HPC regulates staff contracts. Members of SWAST teaching staff have contracts with both the Open University and Bournemouth/Plymouth University for the provision of paramedic training. The Ronin staff who teach on this programme have HPC UK paramedic status, and various qualifications relating to Adult Education and Tutoring. These tutors work in the UK as practising paramedics.

“The responsibility for staff development is shared between SWAST and Ronin.”

This is correct. Ronin Staff regularly, during holiday periods, return to the UK and engage in Continued Professional Development under the auspices of South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust, to ensure currency with the latest UK trends. Ronin Staff can do this as they are registered as State Registered Paramedics within the United Kingdom HPC and the South African HPC. We in fact see this exchange and duality of registration as a benchmark of excellence.

“Ronin and University of Stellenbosch are partially responsible for learning and teaching resources on the programme.”

We deny that the University of Stellenbosch supplies any teaching resources whatsoever. SWAST Cape Town Campus aka Ronin is responsible for all teaching resources and the extent of the University of Stellenbosch’s responsibilities are limited to a mere conduit of legal registration of students whilst on the practical rotation only.

“It is unclear currently which institution is responsible for meeting professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements.”

To clarify question 4c: The responsibility for meeting all United Kingdom statutory and regulatory requirements falls squarely within the remit of SWAST, and is executed by constant communication between the Head of Training (David Halliwell) and the Principal of SWAST Cape Town (Timm Irvine-Smith), as well as obligatory verification visits to the Cape Town Campus on each and every examination cycle. A full audit is conducted as well as interviews with all students on the programme.

Many graduates of the Paramedic Programme already enjoy UK HPC registration and are performing well within various UK Services. Ronin’s focus is guided by SWAST and conducts itself as SWAST Cape Town, thus giving full effect to the UK statutory and regulatory bodies - IHCD or the HPC.

Curriculum delivery and teaching and learning

“Ronin and SWAST are jointly responsible for the learning opportunities”

SWAST is solely responsible for the learning opportunities via SWAST Cape Town in accordance with SWAST Quality Assurance Policies.

Placement management and co-ordination

“Placements appear to be solely in South Africa”

This is not correct. The practical placements may be performed either within SWAST’s Ambulance Service or SWAST Cape Town’s Ambulance Service. The South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust (SWAST) has planned to send its own staff to South Africa for class room education, after which the students return to SWAST for practical placements.

“Quality assurance of placements is the joint responsibility of SWAST, Ronin and University of Stellenbosch.”

Quality Assurance is solely the concern of SWAST. The University of Stellenbosch is utilised as a legal vehicle to gain the right to practise on South African Patients via the HPCSA. Their quality assurance input is extremely limited but provision for it, insofar as it does not conflict with SWAST, is provided in order so that SWAST receives the University of Stellenbosch’s cooperation.

“Recruitment of practice educators is conducted jointly by SWAST and Ronin”.

We disagree. SWAST is the only one who recruits South African Nationals that are HPC UK registered Paramedics as well as HPC South Africa registered Paramedics as tutors. Further visiting tutors from SWAST also assist on the Paramedic Programme in Cape Town during each and every Paramedic Course. Practise Educators are limited to a certain number of qualified (both on a professional as well as educational level) and motivated individuals are overseen and co-ordinated by one person. These people are Adv. TJ Irvine Smith, Melina Frey and Tom Kruger. The educational qualities pursuant to mentoring in the clinical setting are regulated by the South African Qualifications Authority by law and have been deemed equivalent to those of the IHCD upon a verification visit by the IHCD to Ronin in South Africa.

“Placements are located jointly by SWAST and Ronin”.

SWAST is responsible for all practise placements either within SWAST UK or aboard SWAST Cape Town’s Ambulances and/ or Hospitals with whom they have agreements in place. This is audited using SWAST Audit Systems (Practice Placement).

“SWAST and Ronin share responsibility for the training and updating of practice educators”

SWAST have sole responsibility for updating any practise educator’s in contact with students, and do so by means their verification visit at each and every theory examination cycle.

“SWAST and Ronin share responsibility for student experience on placement, including monitoring of equality and diversity policies.”

Students are guaranteed equal experiences during their practical training phase regardless of race, gender, creed, nationality or culture. This is in accordance with accepted Human Rights and SWAST’s Equality and Diversity Policy.

Assessment

Assessment moderation is undertaken by SWAST and Ronin contracted staff.

We disagree. All moderation is conducted by SWAST tutors during verification visits on all examination cycles.

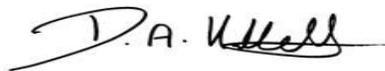
Conclusion

We would also like to point out that Lord Crisp has initiated an initiative whereby he seeks greater reciprocity and involvement within the arena’s of health between the UK Government and African states and he is personally aware of this Project.

We trust you find above clarifications sufficient and we look forward to your further communication and guidance on this matter.

Advocate Smith and David Halliwell are willing to meet with the UPC and their legal team if required.

Yours sincerely



David Halliwell
Head of Education
South Western Ambulance Service NHS Trust