

Support available for hearing participants

We appreciate the process of attending a HCPTS hearing and giving evidence before a panel may be unfamiliar to you.

Please contact the HCPC on ftp@hcpc-uk.org or the Tribunal Service on tsteam@hcpts-uk.org if you would like to discuss any support you require.

The HCPTS aim to hold hearings in a fair and inclusive manner and appreciate that everyone has different needs. Below are examples of adjustments and support we can provide.

1

Format and service of documents

- Correspondence from HCPC / HCPTS can be provided in large print or other accessible formats
- Postage of documents (eg. statements and bundles) on request

2

Support person (identified and approved before a hearing)

- Someone to support and accompany you while you give your evidence. They cannot speak on your behalf or play a role in the hearing.
- Someone to assist you in the hearing with reading documents or understanding the hearing (such as specific learning disability adjustments)
- Independent lay advocacy service: [POhWER](#)

3

Test call

- The Hearings Officer will contact you to offer a test call in order to familiarise with the Microsoft Teams application and answer any questions you have

4

Financial support

- Costs of travel and accommodation for attending a physical hearing are covered by the HCPTS
- Claims for loss of earnings and related expenses in the course of attending a hearing in accordance with our [Witness Expense Policy](#)

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Special Measures

- Holding a hearing in person, virtually by video link or as a 'hybrid' hearing
- Use of pre-recorded evidence as the witness' evidence in chief
- Use of interpreters (including signers and translators) or intermediaries
- Use of physical screens or disabling camera while participating virtually
- Other measures likely to improve the quality of a witness' evidence

Note: Use of Special Measures in a hearing must be approved by a panel. The HCPC would make this application on your behalf. See [Practice Note](#) for eligibility criteria

6

Protection of Privacy

- Anonymising information
 - Redacting exhibited documents
 - Concealing the identity of case parties (referring to them as 'Person A' or 'Service User B' etc.)
 - Conducting hearings in private in exceptional circumstances.
- See [Practice Note](#)

7

Cross-examination in cases of a sexual nature

- In cases involving allegations of a sexual nature, a registrant who is representing themselves is only permitted to cross-examine witness who is the alleged victim (the witness) with the witness' written consent.
- Where the witness does not consent, a legally qualified person must be appointed to conduct the cross-examination.

Note: The HCPTS would make this appointment. See [Practice Note](#)

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Debrief after the hearing

- Speak to the Hearings Officer about any concerns or questions after the hearing
- Provide feedback using our [Witness Feedback Form](#)