

Public Health Protection Priorities Division
Welsh Government
4th Floor East
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ



18 April 2023

By email: SpecialProceduresMailbox@gov.wales

Mandatory licensing of special procedures in Wales

Dear sir/ madam,

APIL welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Welsh Government's consultation on mandatory licensing of special procedures. APIL campaigns to promote public safety and the prevention of needless harm, and as such, we believe any steps to prevent harm to the public should be welcomed.

The special procedures covered by the paper (acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis and tattooing) are increasingly popular and easily accessible. The lack of regulation for these procedures is causing needless harm and putting the public at risk. Thus, APIL agrees with the proposals in the consultation paper for three different types of special procedure licenses depending on the circumstances of the practitioner. We support the proposed licensing criteria, namely the minimum age requirement, the need for applicants to provide evidence of their competence, completion of a regulated level 2 qualification on infection prevention and control, and in particular, the requirement for applicants to provide evidence of current insurance that covers treatments such as treatment indemnity insurance or a similar policy.

APIL also welcomes the proposal for a premises/ vehicle approval certificate passed by local authorities that will confirm the specific procedures permitted to be performed at the premise/ vehicle. We agree with the approval criteria for an application for a premises/ vehicle approval certificate. In particular, APIL is pleased that proof of public liability insurance is a mandatory requirement for an application. We advocate for public liability insurance as it is not uncommon for injured people to be unable to bring a claim because the business that incorrectly carried out the procedure causing harm does not have insurance to meet the claim. Public liability insurance will guarantee that an injured person as a result of an incident or mistake during a special procedure is not left without compensation for the harm they have suffered.

APIL believes that the requirement for a special procedure license for practitioners in conjunction with a premise approval certificate is an effective way to regulate special procedures and prevent harm.

We hope that our comments prove useful. If you have any queries about our response, please contact Ana Ramos, Legal Affairs Assistant, at the contact information below, in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Ramos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ana Ramos

Legal Affairs Assistant

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

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