EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL (CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT) RULES ORDER OF COUNCIL 2006

2006 No. 3511

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 This Order, which is made under the Osteopaths Act 1993 ("the Act"), approves Rules made by the General Osteopathic Council setting out the requirements for post registration training which have to be met by registered osteopaths.

2.2 Every year, osteopaths are required to undertake a specified amount of post-registration training ("CPD").

2.3 The Rules also provide for the circumstances in which an osteopath may be removed from the register for non-compliance with the CPD requirements, and how he may be restored to the register following such removal.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None

4. Legislative background

4.1 The General Osteopathic Council is empowered under the Act to make rules establishing a scheme for compulsory continuing education and training for osteopaths.

4.2 The purpose of the Rules scheduled to this Order is to replace the current voluntary CPD scheme with a statutory scheme.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to the United Kingdom.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

7.1 The policy objective of the instrument is to require osteopaths to undertake post registration training, in order to develop the skills of osteopaths and to enhance patient safety.

7.2 The General Osteopathic Council carried out a three month consultation starting in September 2005 as part of its Legislative Review. This covered the issue of compulsory CPD. A total of 874 responses were received from registered osteopaths. Responses were also received from professional bodies such as the British Osteopathic Association and other stakeholders. A significant majority of respondents supported for the proposals on compulsory CPD.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as its impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is insignificant.

8.2 There are no identified costs to either the public or the Exchequer arising from this Instrument.

9. Contact

Stephen Arthur at the Department of Health (telephone: 0113 254 5789) or e-mail: stephen.arthur@dh.gsi.gov.uk.