

3.2 Deputy T.A. Coles of St. Helier South of the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding his reasoning for omitting Psychotherapists from Schedule 1 of the Draft Health and Social Care Professionals Register (Jersey) Law 202- (P.15/2026) (OQ.17/2026)

Will the Minister outline his reasoning for omitting psychotherapist from Schedule 1 of the Draft Health and Social Care Professionals Register (Jersey) Law 202- (P.15/2026)?

Deputy T.J.A. Binet of St. Saviour (The Minister for Health and Social Services):

The introduction of the new law was only ever intended to include those professions that are subject to statutory regulation in the U.K. (United Kingdom). Psychotherapists are not regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council and there are no statutory national standards, qualifications or fitness to practice requirements to which they could be aligned or against which they could be held to account. Local registration would not enhance public protection and to insist on it would simply create unnecessary red tape with no meaningful benefit to anyone. That said, should the U.K. introduce statutory regulation for psychotherapists in the future, the new law has been designed to allow them to be added very quickly and very easily.

3.2.1 Deputy T.A. Coles:

Firstly, does the Minister believe that being tied so closely to the U.K. gives Jersey the ability to be flexible and agile in addressing concerns that come forward? Also, is the Minister not aware that psychotherapists actually exist in line one of schedule 1, but have to be considered an arts psychotherapist? Is this actually balanced and just?

Deputy T.J.A. Binet:

Under all of the circumstances, I think it is balanced and just, and I have given my reasons in the first part of the answer to the question, and I have not really got a great deal more to say about that.