**Commission for research into themes within Fitness to Practise concerns raised by members of the public - Response to Clarification Questions**

**Q) When Social England talk about having an increase in referrals compared to out predecessor organisations, could that be put down to any ongoing communication that we are conducting? Or is perhaps that there are not particularly more people submitting complaints, just more people to complain to?**

**A) No, to be honest we feel that with Social Work England being a new specialist regulator, we have a higher profile and are easier to find.**

**Q) How does the volume of complaints that Social Work England are currently receiving, compare to previous years under HCPC for e.g.?**

**A) The number of complaints has gradually risen over the years. We seen an increase of around 30%, against the last 18 months of the HCPC. The increase is almost purely down to an increase in referrals from members of the public.**

**Q) Is there any chance potential providers can look at previous data from HCPC, to compare the types of complaints that were being made by the public?**

**A) Social Work England have access to all of the HCPC’s closed cases, so in theory given a bit of time we could pull the information together and perhaps compare the data from say 2017/2018, to todays data. There is also HCPC performance reporting available, that will give an overview of all the Fitness to Practise professions that they regulate. This information will cover right up until Social Work England took over as a regulator, in December 2019. We have left the tender open for interpretation and welcome all potential providers ideas.**

**Q) Do Social Work England have any expectations, about how many pieces of research are involved in this tender per provider?**

**A. Social Work England do not have any expectations involved in terms of numbers. We would ask for details of experience, suitability for the project, and how you plan to deliver the research within the timescales set out.**

**Q) a) Please do we as the research provider also have a right to publish, for teaching and other academic purposes?** **A) a) Any requests to publish the research would need to be discussed and approved by Social Work England, and the provider would not be permitted to publish before Social Work England.**

**Q) b) If yes, is there a time constraint and would there be specific areas not open to use and publication by the research provider?** **A) b) The specific details around any proposed publication by the provider would need to be discussed with and approved by Social Work England.**