UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process
Complaint Hearing

1 July 2026
30 September & 2 October 2026
ONLINE

Name of Registrant:	Philip Norbury
Heard by:	Adjudication Panel
Panel Members:	Mark Bissell (Lay Chair) Julia Bueno Stephen Coulter
Legal Assessor:	Rebecca Tuck KC, Cloisters Chambers
Panel Secretary:	Bethany Rees
UKCP Presenting Officer:	Jade Bucklow, New Park Court Chambers
Registrant's Representative:	Simon Butler, Deka Chambers
Charges found proved:	1a (i), 1b, 2c (i, ii, iii, iv), 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4e, 4g
Charges found not proved:	1a (ii), 2a, 2b, 3c, 4c, 4d, 4f, 5
Panel decision:	Misconduct found not serious; no current impairment found.
Sanction:	Not applicable

Detail of allegations

That being a UKCP registered psychotherapist since at least 2023 you, Philip Norbury (the Registrant):

1. On 27 March 2025, during an in-person therapy session with Client A, you:

    a. made comments of a personal and/or sexual nature, by stating to Client A that you were;

        (i) "excited" to see Client A in person and were,

    Admitted and found proved by way of admission

        (ii) "very drawn into" Client A or words to that effect;

    Denied

    b. shared with Client A a personal story regarding rejection by a female friend and the shame and distress you felt about this.

    Admitted and found proved by way of admission

2. On 31 March 2025, during an online therapy session with Client A, when Client A raised concerns with you about the session on 27 March 2025,

    a. stated that if the circumstances were different, you would pursue a romantic relationship with Client A and /or

    Denied

    b. could not deny there was an attraction or words to that effect.

    Denied

    c. made a series of personal and sexual self-disclosures, that:

        (i) you are often drawn and attracted to "vulnerable women" or words to that effect;

    Denied

        (ii) Client A is "one of your most sexually open clients" or words to that effect;

    Denied

        (iii) you are also "very sexually open" and used to attend "sex parties with mattresses all over huge rooms" or words to that effect; and

Denied

(iv) you have little sex drive since having a child.

Admitted and found proved by way of admission

3. Your actions as set out at paragraphs 1–2 above were:
   (a) Inappropriate; and/or

Denied

   (b) Unprofessional; and/or

Denied

   (c) Sexually motivated.

Denied

4. The behaviours set out at paragraphs 1–2 above are in breach of UKCP's **Code of Ethics and Professional Practice (2019)**. In particular, you:

   (a) Failed to act in Client A's best interests, thereby breaching clause 1 of the Code.

Denied

   (b) Failed to treat Client A with respect, thereby breaching clause 2 of the Code.

Denied

   (c) Failed to maintain appropriate professional boundaries and engaged in behaviour that blurred or crossed those boundaries, thereby breaching clause 4 of the Code.

Denied

   (d) Abused and/or exploited the therapeutic relationship with Client A for emotional or sexual purposes, thereby breaching clause 5 of the Code.

Denied

   (e) Harmed Client A, thereby breaching clause 6 of the Code.

Denied

   (f) Failed to recognise and manage the inherent power imbalance between therapist and client, thereby breaching clause 8 of the Code.

Denied

   (g) Failed to act in a way that upholds the profession's reputation and promotes public confidence in the profession and its members, including outside your professional life as a UKCP practitioner, thereby breaching clause 32 of the Code.

Denied

5. For the reasons set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.

Denied

Documents

The Panel had placed before it the following documents:

- A principal bundle on behalf of UKCP amounting to 76 pages, hereafter referred to as C1;
- A principal bundle on behalf of the Registrant amounting to 69 pages, hereafter referred to as R1;
- An additional bundle entitled "Note Fragments" from the Registrant amounting to 5 pages, hereafter referred to as R2.

Hearing

1. The complaint was heard under the UKCP Complaints and Conduct Process 2022, and the Panel considered the alleged breaches of the UKCP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct 2019.

Preliminary Matters

2. The Panel considered the following preliminary matters:
    a. Amendment of charges:
        (i) Whether the charges should be amended to allow greater specificity as to what factual allegations are admitted and what are denied. UKCP made clear that there was to be no change in substance.
        (ii) The Panel took legal advice and noted that the alterations were largely to punctuation to separate out complaints, and in some respects narrow them by removing generalisations.
        (iii) Mr Butler did not object to the amendments.
        (iv) The amendments were therefore permitted by the Panel and are reflected in the charges set out above.
    b. Late disclosure of document:
        (i) Mr Butler on behalf of the Registrant sought to rely on five pages of notes, entitled "note fragments", which he said should have been attached to the Registrant's witness statement and had been omitted.
        (ii) Ms Bucklow sought information as to when the notes were drafted, when they were provided to his solicitor and a copy of the original document as sent and the metadata of the document. Mr Butler considered that the questions made were without merit as the Registrant could be cross examined, or alternatively that he should be able to adduce a witness statement from his instructing solicitor as to when he had been provided with the notes.
        (iii) At the suggestion of the legal assessor, Mr Butler provided a copy of the email sent by the Registrant attaching these notes, and a screenshot of the metadata, and did not thereafter adduce witness evidence.

(iv) The Registrant sent an email to his insurers on 27 May 2025, having received notification of the complaint from the UKCP. The metadata shows that the Registrant created the five-page word document on 27 May 2025, and it is that document which is before the Panel today. The instructions from the registrant are that he kept notes on a platform called "ISO Connect" from which he could not extract data to transmit, and which is now defunct, so he "cut and paste" into a word document.

(v) The UKCP on this basis did not object to the inclusion of the document but made it clear there would be cross examination as to when the notes were made and last amended.

(vi) The Panel received legal advice; the UKCP rules provide for disclosure of documents 28 days before a hearing and for a bundle to be agreed 14 days before a hearing, but there can and should be exceptions to this if it is in the interests of justice, which includes asking whether the document is relevant to the issues and should properly have been disclosed earlier.

(vii) It was clear that the notes, which include entries under the dates of 27 March 2025 and 31 March 2025 (though at least some of the latter was clearly written after 5 April) are relevant to the issues before this Panel. While it would have been more convenient if they had been disclosed with the statements, they can be read and included today. The Panel accordingly received the notes, entitling them "R2".

c. Adjournment:

(i) Client A attended and took the affirmation. She was provided with R2 just half an hour before she was due to give her evidence. At the outset Client A said that she felt "blindsided" by the late production, and did not understand the "providence or legitimacy" of the document, or what purpose it had been produced for.

(ii) Client A was given the procedural background to the decision to permit the late production and then took time with the UKCP case manager and presenter. On her return Client A was still anxious; it was explained to Client A that she was a witness of fact and did not need to answer questions about the providence of any documents, and that the issues before this Panel arose from the consultations of 27 and 31 March 2025. Client A was clearly unsettled by the late disclosure.

(iii) Whilst the UKCP did not want to have the matter adjourned, it felt there was no choice as Client A did not feel able to give her best evidence in circumstances where she had not had time to "process" the document provided. Client A did consider that an adjournment would allow her to reflect on the document and be prepared to answer questions – it was not a case of her withdrawing her cooperation with the process. Ms Bucklow submitted that it was in the interests of justice to permit Client A the time she clearly felt she needed to permit her to

give evidence to the best of her ability, and indeed to prepare a supplementary witness statement.

(iv) Mr Butler objected to the application to adjourn. He contended that as a person undertaking training in psychotherapy it should have been clear to her that there were notes, that they only took 10 minutes to read and should be able to agree as to whether she agrees their accuracy or not. He pointed out that this matter had been ongoing for some time and this would cause further delay.

(v) The Panel received legal advice, and was advised that the overarching principle is to ensure a fair hearing, where possible, without undue delay.

(vi) The Panel considered that while further delay was unfortunate, the cause was the late disclosure, and that the only fair course of action was to permit Client A the time she said she needed to consider carefully the document, which referred back to therapy sessions she had undertaken in the summer of 2024. While Client A would not get any further answers as tot the "providence" or "legitimacy" of the notes document, it would not be in the interests of justice to compel her to give her evidence when she felt, in her words, to have been "blindsided" by disclosure which was outside the timescales set out in the UKCP Code of Conduct.

(vii) The Panel therefore adjourned the matter until 30 September 2026.

Determination of Facts

6. The Panel considered all of the documentary evidence before it and heard oral submissions from Jade Bucklow on behalf of UKCP and Simon Butler on behalf of the Registrant. Ms Bucklow shared the note of what she had read to the Panel, and Mr Butler shared a skeleton argument of 15 pages, and the cases of ***Basson v GMC*** [2018] EWHC 505 and ***Arunkalaivanan v GMC*** [2014] EWHC 873.

7. The Panel also heard evidence from the following witnesses: Client A on behalf of UKCP, from the Registrant.

8. The Panel heard and accepted the advice of the Legal Assessor.

9. The Registrant saw Client A from August 2024 over some 19 months conducting predominantly remote sessions - of the 29 sessions, three were in person. Until the matters about which complaint is made Client A stated that she "generally felt that the therapy was supportive". Client A was, at least in part, undertaking therapy as part of her training obligation as she is studying to be a psychotherapist; she selected the Registrant, at least in part, because he offered "Gestalt" therapy –

i.e. a school of therapy which emphasises the inclusion of present moment awareness of thoughts, feelings and bodily sensations in the therapy.

10. Client A and the Registrant met in person on 27 March 2025, and remotely on 31 March 2025. It is about those final two sessions that complaint is made.

11. Client A's evidence in her statement:

    a. Client A says that on 27 March 2025 the Registrant told her that he was "excited" to see her in person, and at one point said that he felt "very drawn into" her. She also says that later in the session the registrant shared a story about being rejected by a female friend and described the shame he felt. Client A states that she told the Registrant that she felt uneasy during this session.
    b. During their online session of 31 March 2025 Client A states that she told the Registrant she needed to talk about what had happened in the previous session as she felt uneasy since, and that she had "experienced an erotic charge from him". She says that his answer was that if circumstances were different, he would pursue a romantic relationship with her and that he could not deny the attraction, and that he was "often drawn to vulnerable women". Client A continues saying that the Registrant described her as one of his "most sexually open clients" and self-disclosed that he used to go to sex parties, but had little sex drive since having a child.

12. In her oral evidence about the in-person session on 27 March 2025 Client A said that the Registrant said he was excited to see her first of all on her arrival, and then twice more when they sat down in the therapy room. She did not add greater detail to the matters set out in her statement. As to the online session on 31st, again she was clear about the allegations set out in her statement but did not recall further details when asked. She was clear about the factual allegations she has made throughout.

13. Registrant's statement:

    a. The Registrant agrees that there was an in-person session on 27 March 2025 and online session on 31 March 2025; he denies that he used "sexualised language or behaved inappropriately towards the complainant".
    b. He says: "For the avoidance of doubt:
        (1) I did not make comments of a personal and/or sexual nature;
        (2) I did not express or imply any sexual or romantic interest in Client A;
        (3) I did not state that I would pursue a romantic relationship with Client A;
        (4) I did not state or suggest that there was any attraction.
        (5) I did not engage in conduct prohibited by the Code, including:
            (i) sexualised communication or behaviour; and/or

(ii) exploitation of the therapeutic relationship."

14. As set out above the Registrant provided a document entitled "fragment of notes" with entries from sessions 3 to 7 in August to October 2024, and from what he has labelled as sessions 23 and 24 which took place on 27 March 2025 (in person) and 31 March 2025 (online). In evidence the Registrant said that the notes these notes from the final two sessions had not been made immediately after those sessions, but after he knew of the complaint at which time he wrote down 'everything he remembered'. From the emails with his insurers, he could date only that he had written them before 27 May 2025.

15. The Registrant readily accepted that he said he was "excited" to see Client A in person – explaining that he considered this term within Gestalt therapy to refer to the energy involved in an interaction. He denied saying the word multiple times as alleged saying that would be "weird". He denied saying that he was "drawn to A" but accepted that made several references to a fear that she was seeking to pull him into a situation (including in his email of 5 April 2025 and in the note of 31 March 2025 he prepared during May 2025). He thought this a significant difference, akin to a magnet pulling as opposed to repelling iron filings. He accepted that he had shared a personal story about being rejected by a female friend and feeling shame (though he says this has been on 31st March not 27th); he said that he considered the 'golden rule' about self-disclosure being that it must be for the benefit of the client and not for its own sake.

16. In relation to the allegation arising from the online session of 31st March 2025, both the Registrant and Client A agreed that she stated at the outset that she was uncomfortable about the previous session as she had felt an erotic charge – both parties interpreted that as a charge from him towards her.

    a. the Registrant denied saying that he was attracted to 'vulnerable women'
    b. the Registrant denied saying that Client A was one of "his most sexually open clients"; in evidence he explained that she had shared that she was a lesbian, and that she had disclosed sexual fantasies and unconventional views about polyamory and affairs.
    c. He denied saying that if circumstances were different, he would pursue a romantic relationship with her and could not deny an attraction. The Registrant said further that he did not deny that Client A was objectively attractive but said he was clear to her that he did not want anything from her, that nothing could ever happen between them. (Client A said that she did not recall these things being said.) The note of this session which the Registrant drafted after being told of the complaint, but before 27 May 2025, includes the following:

        "*I felt that [Client A] was asking me if I was attracted to her and I struggled to articulate that while I do think [Client A] is an attractive person with many admirable qualities (even qualities that I have looked for in partners before) I am not attracted to her in the sense of fancying her, thinking about her between sessions or wanting*

anything from her. I made it very clear to her that I didn't fancy her and didn't want anything from her, and that nothing would or could ever happen between us, but I didn't want to gaslight her and pretend that I didn't think she was an attractive person".

d. The Registrant accepted that he did tell Client A that he used to attend sex parties with people of different sexualities, and that people would be having sex in different rooms. He denied saying there were "mattresses all over the floor" as alleged. The Registrant said that this was because Client A had a concern about men fetishizing lesbians, and he was seeking to explain that he had got to know lesbians at parties and did not fetishize them, to seek to reassure her.
e. The Registrant agreed that he did refer to having little sex drive since having a child – again saying that he was volunteering this to seek to offer reassurance as to wanting nothing from her.

17. The Registrant reflected that he did not consider some of the things he shared to have been a good idea with hindsight but underlined that he was seeking to reassure the client as to her "safety" with him as non-judgmental and not seeking any kind of relationship from her.

18. Their next session was scheduled to take place on 7 April 2025, but on 5 April 2025, Client A sent an email stating that she had "decided to end our work together with immediate effect" having found statements made on 27 and 31 March 2025 to have been inappropriate and made her uncomfortable. In her email she set out what had made her feel uncomfortable specifically, and listed the following:

"- you telling me about going to sex parties
- you telling me about not having a sex drive since having a child
- telling me that I'm one of your most sexually open clients
- telling me you've found the work with me exciting, and you've been drawn in to me- telling me about your history of being attracted and drawn to vulnerable women"

19. The Registrant replied on the same day saying that he was:

"sad to hear you are ending therapy and deeply pained to hear your discomfort with the things I have said.

I will certainly be taking this to supervision and getting support and instruction for myself as I do feel I was pulled into something of which I was not clearly understanding.

In the moment, I thought that sharing some of those things with you about my life and relationship to my sexuality would make you feel safer with me, but it clearly sounds like it had the opposite effect. I regret that I was not able to hold the therapeutic container for you as you need and deserve."

The Registrant says in his statement that he deliberately chose not to prepare a point-by-point rebuttal to the email of 5th April so as to avoid escalation.

20. The Registrant offered a further session in his email of 7 April 2025, on the same day this was declined by Client A.

21. On 24 April 2025 Client A made a complaint to UKCP. In her statement, Client A said she felt "violated, distressed, and unsafe" as a result of comments made.

22. The Panel were provided with redacted copies of emails between the Registrant and his insurers in which the latter asked about notes of therapy sessions. The "fragment of notes" document before the Panel was the subject of further questions from the Panel because while the Registrant was frank in stating that the March 2025 entries were drafted by him after he had been told of the UKCP complaint, the position in relation to notes from 2024 was unclear. In answer to questions from the Panel Chair, the Registrant said that he had "embellished" his notes from earlier sessions as some were only a word or two. He was asked to look again for a spreadsheet which he said he had drawn up when his access to his online platform had been withdrawn on its closure, but at the reconvened hearing of 2 October confirmed via Mr Butler that the Registrant had been unable to find anything more.

23. While there were no charges before this Panel in relation to record keeping or note taking, the Panel did remind itself of Paragraph 20 of the UKCP Code of Conduct which states that Registrants must:

> "Make notes appropriate to the modality of therapy being practised, and keep records which are accurate, legible and timely."

The Registrant was asked by his insurer for copies of his notes on 20 May 2025, less than two months after the final session of 31 March 2025. While not determining any allegation of a breach of this paragraph of the Code, the Panel did wish to underline its importance.

24. By letter dated 6 June 2025 solicitors on behalf of the Registrant set out his response to the complaint, stating that the Registrant had "always maintained appropriate professional boundaries and at no point made disclosures that were irrelevant to the therapeutic aims of the sessions. Any reflections or observations offered were within the accepted scope of psychotherapeutic engagement and in response to material introduced by the complainant herself."

25. On balance, having fully considered the above, the Panel made findings of fact. Each of the factual allegations made were alleged (in Allegation 3) to be (a) inappropriate, and/or (b) unprofessional, and/or (c) sexually motivated. The Panel considered the factual allegations, and in relation to each matter which was admitted or found proven, went on to consider whether those actions were inappropriate, unprofessional and/or sexually motivated. While findings as to whether each alleged issue was inappropriate, unprofessional and/or sexually motivated are set out in relation to each charge individually, the Panel also stepped back and looked at the allegations wholistically.

26. The Panel considered that Client A sought to give truthful evidence and was frank about matters which she did not recall. The Panel accepted the submission of both Counsel, that the most reliable contemporaneous evidence about Client A's complaints is her email of 5 April 2025, a few days after the final session of 31 March 2025.

27. The Registrant, particularly in his oral evidence, was frank that he was somewhat taken aback when, at the start of the session on 31 March 2025 Client A said that she had felt that there was some erotic tension in their previous session. The Registrant reflected in the notes which he prepared in May 2025 and this made him experience feelings of shame. The Registrant accepted that he made self-disclosures in seeking to address that which with hindsight he considered were more about him than the Client, which had "not landed well" and which he thought he probably should not have made. He stated that throughout his intention however was to seek to communicate to Client A that she was in a "safe space" and that he was not looking for anything from her.

28. The Panel broadly accepted this account of his motivation. In particular, when addressing whether any of the factual matters which were either admitted or proven had displayed "sexual motivation", the Panel had regard to the test set out in Paragraph 14 of ***Basson***, that this requires an examination of the Registrants state of mind as to whether conduct was "done in pursuit of sexual gratification or in pursuit of a future sexual relationship". In relation to these issues the Panel considered the following to be of relevance:
    a. The Registrant saw Client A over many months, and while this was mostly via online sessions, and two previous face-to-face encounters, with no similar allegations.
    b. There were no allegations of inappropriate touching.
    c. Client A said that until 27 and 31 March 2025 the therapy had been appropriately and helpful.
    d. The Registrant did not specifically request an in-person session on this or any other specific occasion.
    e. The Registrant did not seek to have any contact with Client A outside of a therapeutic setting.
    f. The Registrant did not inappropriately press Client A when she said she was ending the therapy.
    g. It appears from the document written by the Registrant's clinical supervisor that the Registrant was frank, and that he has sought extra training in 'erotic transference' and "learning about the risks of self-disclosure".

29. The Panel made the following findings:

Allegation 1: On 27 March 2025, during an in-person therapy session with Client A, you:

(a) made comments of a personal and/or sexual nature, by stating to Client A that you were;

(i) "excited" to see Client A in person and were,

30. This allegation has been admitted and found proved by way of admission.

31. There was however a dispute of fact in relation to whether the Registrant said this once on greet Client A for their in-person session, or whether he repeated it on several occasions when they had sat down to commence their session. The Registrant denied repetition, saying that it would have been "weird".

32. The Panel are not satisfied that the UKCP have proven, on a balance of probabilities, that this word was used repeatedly. It considered that it was necessary to make this finding, because, as the Registrant implicitly accepted, it might be inappropriate to use the word repeatedly. The Panel noted that in her email of 5 April 2025, Client A did not say that this had been said repeatedly, but in fact said that the Registrant had found "the work with me exciting". This may or may not have been said as the Registrant said that the word "exciting" in Gestalt therapy in fact referred to the energy of an interaction. This is not however the charge – the allegation made is that on two or three occasions the Registrant said he was "excited to see" the Client, and as a matter of fact the Panel is not satisfied this is more likely than not.

33. Having found on a balance of probabilities that this was said only once, the Panel determined that the use of this word was neither inappropriate nor unprofessional. It is a word used commonly in conversation, and in the context of most of their therapy being online whereas this was an in-person session, was in no way improper.

34. There was no evidence to suggest that this word was used in a sexual manner to imply or seek to communicate that the Registrant was sexually excited.

(ii) "very drawn into" Client A or words to that effect;

35. This allegation was denied by the Registrant. The Panel considered the account of Client A and that of the Registrant.
    a. The Panel noted that Client A has consistently, from her email of 5 April 2025 and in all later correspondence, said that this was the phrase used by the Registrant. She was clear in her recollection.
    b. The Registrant has said on several occasions that he felt that Client A was trying to "pull him into something", for example in his email of 5 April 2025, in his notes relating to 31 March 2025 and orally in this hearing.

36. The Panel did not consider the use of the words "pull" or "draw" per se was a significant dispute. Rather, the emphasis, as the Registrant described in his oral evidence, was whether he was communicating to Client A that he was romantically attracted towards her, or whether he was saying he felt some energy emanating from her.

37. The Panel accepted that the Registrant was communicating that he felt an energy from the Client and was not saying that he was attracted to her.

38. The Panel considered the subjective motivation and did not consider that there as any sexual motivation. It was part of the context of the Registrant seeking to explain to the Client why she was in a safe space with him.

39. As to whether it was inappropriate, this is an objective test on the basis of what was said. The Panel considered the importance in Gestalt therapy of recognising emotions – both of the practitioner and client. The Panel considered carefully whether sharing with Client A that he felt "pulled in" or "drawn" by her, he was inappropriately over sharing, but do not consider this has been made out in relation to this charge.

(b) shared with Client A, a personal story regarding rejection by a female friend and the shame and distress you felt about this.

40. This allegation was admitted and found proved by way of admission.

41. There was a dispute as to whether this disclosure took place on 27 March 2025 or on 31 March 2025. The Panel considers that it is more likely than not that this took place on 31 March 2025 as that is the occasion on which there was a lengthier exchange, including on the question of whether there was an attraction between the Registrant and Client A. That context is of some importance.

42. The Panel considered that making this comment the Registrant did act inappropriately. While, in the Gestalt model a practitioner might share that they have experienced "shame", to share the details of what happened when he was rejected by a woman was inappropriate, and was not in accordance with what the Registrant described as the "golden rule" of it needing to be in service of the client.

43. Ms Bucklow submitted that the very fact of the Registrant bringing to mind a sexual rejection is indicative of him having had some kind of sexual motivation. The Panel do not accept this. The Registrant said that when sexuality was being discussed and the topic of shame was under discussion, he had sought to share an instance of that which at the time he thought would be in the service of his client. It is apparent that he has since reflected on this, and the Panel noted that his supervisor writes that he has sought extra training in erotic transference, and was "clearly learning a lot about the risks of self-disclosure".

44. The Panel concluded that the disclosure made was, on balance inappropriate and by dint of that was unprofessional. It is not however satisfied that it was sexually motivated, or evidenced that other disclosures were sexually motivated.

Allegation 2: On 31 March 2025, during an online therapy session with Client A, when Client A raised concerns with you about the session on 27 March 2025,

(a) stated that if the circumstances were different, you would pursue a romantic relationship with Client A and /or

45. This was denied by the Registrant.

46. The Panel noted that in her statement and oral evidence, Client A said that this was the "worst thing" he could say. The Panel accepted that the most contemporaneous evidence about the sessions of 27 March and 31 March 2025 were the short emails exchanged on 5 April 2025, and it noted that there was no mention in the email of this compliant.

47. It is clear that the Registrant was seeking to communicate to Client A that there would not be any future romantic relationship between them, and he wanted "nothing" from her.

48. The Panel considered that the note made by the Registrant after hearing about the complaints, in which he wrote the following, is more likely than not to be accurate:

> "*I felt that [Client A] was asking me if I was attracted to her and I struggled to articulate that while I do think [Client A] is an attractive person with many admirable qualities (even qualities that I have looked for in partners before) I am not attracted to her in the sense of fancying her, thinking about her between sessions or wanting anything from her. I made it very clear to her that I didn't fancy her and didn't want anything from her, and that nothing would or could ever happen between us, but I didn't want to gaslight her and pretend that I didn't think she was an attractive person*".

49. The Panel considered this was not as skilful as the Registrant would no doubt have wished it to be, but on a balance of probabilities are not satisfied that he was saying he would in other circumstances have pursued a romantic relationship.

50. The Panel do not consider that what was said by the Registrant was inappropriate or unprofessional. It is apparent that during therapy Client A wanted to address relationship issues and issues around self-esteem and shame. In that context the Panel understood the Registrant's efforts not to "gaslight" her.

51. Nor was this sexually motivated. It was in fact the opposite in that he was saying he would not be pursuing any sexual relationship.

Allegation 2

(b) could not deny there was an attraction or words to that effect.

52. This charge was denied. As set out above the Panel are satisfied that the Registrant told Client A that he thought she was an "attractive person" and that she had "admirable qualities".

53. The Panel noted that in his reflective statement the Registrant accepts that this was "unnecessary and may have been confusing". The Panel are not however satisfied that the Registrant used the words alleged – though do understand how Client A could have heard this given the words which the Registrant did admit to having used.

54. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel did not consider that the words the Registrant did use were inappropriate or sexually motivated, though they were not well judged.

Allegation 2

(c) Made a series of personal and sexual self-disclosures, that:

(i) you are often drawn and attracted to "vulnerable women" or words to that effect;

55. Denied.

56. The Panel noted that in her email of 5 April 2025 Client A said that she was uncomfortable by the Registrant telling her of his history of being attracted and drawn to vulnerable women".

57. While this was denied by the Registrant, it is apparent that when Client A raised concerns about an erotic energy in the room at their previous session, he did make a series of disclosures about himself. In this context, it is more likely than not to have included a reference to "vulnerable women" when he was sharing a story of previous rejection and of his attendance at sex parties.

58. On a balance of probabilities, the Panel considered that it was more likely than not that the Registrant made this statement which is why it was within Client A's email.

59. The Panel considered that this was inappropriate and therefore unprofessional.

60. The Panel did however consider it more likely than not that this was being said by the Registrant as part of his attempt to seek to explain to Client A that he would not ever seek a relationship with her. He was trying to let her know that she was in a "safe space".

(ii) Client A is "one of your most sexually open clients" or words to that effect;

61. This Allegation is denied.

62. During her cross examination, Client A could not recall the words used or how she responded.

63. It seems likely that the Registrant had a view that Client A was "sexually open" as she had told him of her views towards polyamory, affairs and shared details of erotic dreams.

64. This allegation falls within a conversation which led to the Registrant sharing details of his sexual history and of his sex drive.

65. On a balance of probabilities, the Panel consider that it is marginally more likely than not that this was said, and that it was inappropriate. In particular, comparing one client to others is inappropriate and unprofessional.

66. The Panel do not however accept that this was in any way sexually motivated. It was a precursor to the Registrant disclosing matters about himself in an effort to try and reassure the Client that she was safe with him.

(iii) you are also "very sexually open" and used to attend "sex parties with mattresses all over huge rooms" or words to that effect; and

67. The Registrant denied that he had described himself as "very sexually open", admitted that he disclosed to Client A that he used to attend sex parties, and denied that he said there were "mattresses" all over the floors or in huge rooms.

68. The Panel considered that making the comment about having attended sex parties was inappropriate and unprofessional, but was not sexually motivated.

(iv) you have little sex drive since having a child.

69. This charge is admitted and found proved by way of admission.

70. The Panel considered that making this comment the Registrant was inappropriate, was unprofessional but again was not sexually motivated for the reasons set out above. This very much underlined the evidence of the Registrant that he was seeking to provide reassurance to his Client as to her safety and the fact that there was no sexual motivation on his part.

71. In total, the Panel found the following factual allegations admitted or proven, and which were inappropriate and therefore unprofessional:
    a. Allegation 1b – sharing a personal story about rejection by a female friend
    b. Allegation 2b Made self -disclosures of
        (i) Being attracted to vulnerable women;

(ii) That Client A was the most sexually open client

(iii) The that he had attended sex parties

(iv) That he had little sex drive since having a child.

72. The Panel considered these matters as against the UKCP's Ethical Principles and Code of Professional Conduct proved. The Panel determined that the Registrant:
    a. Failed to act in Client A's best interests, thereby breaching clause 1 of the Code.
    b. Failed to treat Client A with respect, thereby breaching clause 2 of the Code.
    c. Harmed Client A in breach of clause 6 of the Code.
    d. Breached clause 32 of the code in failing to uphold the reputation of the profession.

73. The remaining charges are dismissed. In particular, paragraph 4 of having sexual contact or relationships with clients is not proven and is dismissed.

Determination of Misconduct

74. This determination should be read in accordance with the Panel's previous determinations.

75. In accordance with rule 7.23 of UKCP's Complaints and Conduct Process, the Panel then went on to consider the question of misconduct. In addressing this question, the Panel took into account of the relevant information before it.

76. The Panel heard further submissions from Ms Bucklow on behalf of UKCP and Mr Butler on behalf of the Registrant.

77. Ms Bucklow on behalf of UKCP stated that the UKCP had no submissions to make in relation to impairment.

78. The Legal Assessor advised that the approach it should adopt in considering the question of misconduct, was a question of its independent judgement and is not a matter of proof for the parties.

79. In addressing whether the facts proved amounted to misconduct, the Panel had regards to the words of Lord Clyde in the case of *Roylance v. General Medical Council.* He stated:

    "Misconduct is a word of general effect, involving some act or omission which falls short of what would be proper in the circumstances. The standard of propriety may often be found by reference to the rules and standards ordinarily required by…a practitioner in the particular circumstances."

80. The Panel had regard to the judgement of Collins J in the case of Nandi v General Medical Council (2004) EWHC 2317 (Admin) in which he said: *"The adjective "Serious" must be given its proper weight, and in other contexts, there has been reference to conduct which would be regarded as deplorable by fellow practitioners. It is, of course, possible for negligent conduct to amount to serious professional misconduct but the negligence must be to a high degree."*

81. Mr Butler on behalf of the Registrant submitted that the requirement of misconduct being "serious" has not been crossed. This was a question of misjudgement rather than serious misconduct. It was a single event on 31 March 2025, after some 19-months of working together. There was no finding of sexual motivation and no question of aggravating features.

82. The Panel first considered its findings of fact and the standards displayed fell short of those required and breached the Code of Conduct, the breaches were not serious. The Panel did however note and welcome the reflective work which the Registrant has undertaken to date. It is essential that he continues to do so, to develop as a responsible practitioner.

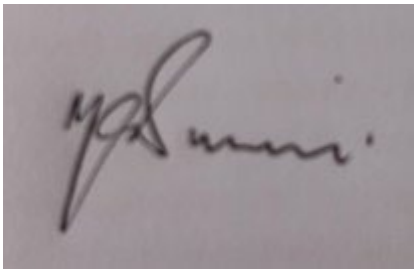
83. In light of the above, the Panel determined that the Registrant's conduct did not amount to serious misconduct.

Right of Appeal

84. Both the Registrant and UKCP have 28 days from when the written decision is served in which to exercise their right of appeal.

85. The sanction outlined above will not take effect until after the 28-day period has lapsed. If no appeal is received the decision will take effect after the 28th day.

Signed,



Mark Bissell, Lay Chair
2 October 2026