THIS LETTER APPLIES TO NEW APPLICANTS ONLY. FOR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION FOR THE PERIOD 1st MARCH 2017 to 28th FEBRUARY 2019 PLEASE SEE:
http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers

1st March 2017

Dear Member or Applicant

Re: Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers

As you may be aware there was a joint working party in place between the Society & College of Radiographers (SCoR) and the United Kingdom Association of Sonographers (UKAS) to pursue the application for sonographers to be regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). UKAS merged with the College of Radiographers on January 1st 2009.

Currently there is no independent regulatory body for health care practitioners using ultrasound. There is, however, demand from sonographers to be regulated both for the protection of the public and to uphold education, training and experience in this field. In order to protect the title of ‘sonographer’ and to be able to be recognised as a profession by a regulatory body, a single voluntary register of suitably trained and experienced ultrasound practitioners was established by the SCoR and UKAS and opened in April 2007.

A detailed application has since been made to the HCPC to protect the title of ‘sonographer’. In October 2009 the HCPC Council recommended to the Secretary of State for Health that sonographers should be regulated, subject to two points relating to possible alternative arrangements being considered. There was then a change in policy following the election in 2010 with a command paper on regulation being published by the coalition government in February 2011 (Ref 1). The policy would now be that new groups would not be brought into statutory registration unless there was compelling evidence of a risk to the public. The SCoR, will, however, continue to support and argue the case for statutory registration for sonographers as this will offer greater protection to the public.

If you wish your name to be included on the Public Voluntary Register of Sonographers please read the accompanying information at http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers and complete and return the application form to the SCoR. This register was upgraded in March 2012 to include a Code of Conduct and Ethics, Standards of Proficiency and a declaration that voluntary registrants will abide by these good practice codes.

If you are already statutorily registered with the HCPC or NMC we would expect you to retain your statutory registration. The voluntary register is additional to this and is not intended to be a replacement.

Entry onto the voluntary register will be at no charge for current members of the SCoR and to those who are already statutorily registered. Sonographers who are not from a radiography background are also welcome to apply to join the SCoR, details can be found at http://www.sor.org/being-member

Membership of the SCoR is separate to voluntary registration and there are separate application processes. We encourage all sonographers involved with ultrasound in the fields of clinical practice, education, research, management and applications, irrespective of whether they are current members of SCoR, to apply to join the voluntary register. An administration fee may apply to those applicants who
are not SCoR members. Details of charges can be found in the Fees Schedule, please see link on the SCoR website at: http://www.sor.org/practice/ultrasound/register-sonographers

Registration will be normally be for a period of 2 years. The current registration period runs from March 1\textsuperscript{st} 2017 to February 28\textsuperscript{th} 2019.

If you have further queries regarding the voluntary register please do not hesitate to contact the SCoR either by letter or by e-mail to membership@sor.org.

Please note that acceptance on to this voluntary register does not in itself authenticate competence or fitness to practice.

There is no Professional Indemnity Insurance associated with voluntary registration.

Yours faithfully

Richard Evans
Chief Executive Officer