

Andrew McCulloch &  
Colum Conway  
Social Work England  
1 North Bank  
Blonk Street  
Sheffield  
S3 8JY

Date: 25/04/2024

Dear Andrew and Colum,

**BASW, SWU and UNISON Joint Statement on Social Work England Fitness to Practice Hearing Delays**

At the March stakeholder meeting our representatives raised our ongoing unease about the fitness to practice (FTP) hearing delays announced by Social Work England (SWE) due to budget constraints. Following this meeting, we attach a joint statement from our organisations to document our significant concerns on behalf of our respective members.

We hope this statement clarifies our position and is received by SWE in the collaborative and constructive spirit with which it is intended.

We ask SWE for urgent and progressive discussions with us and other interested bodies, as appropriate, to address the issues we have raised.

The joint statement has also been sent to the Professional Standards Association, the Department of Education and the Office of the Chief Social Workers. We intend to make the joint statement public within 7 working days.

Yours sincerely



Dr Ruth Allen  
Chief Executive Officer  
**BASW**



John McGowan  
General Secretary  
**SWU**



Christina McAnea  
General Secretary  
**UNISON**

cc. Philip Hallam – Executive Director of Regulation, Social Work England