

Disciplinary notice

Mrs Janet Sinclair

A CONDUCT Committee, appointed by the British Psychological Society, met on Thursday 11 October 2007 to hear allegations of professional misconduct against Mrs Janet Sinclair, a Graduate Member. Mrs Sinclair faced three charges of breaching the Society's Code of Conduct regarding the use of hypnosis.

Mrs Sinclair was not present at the hearing nor was she represented. However, the committee heard and accepted evidence that the Society had made every attempt to contact her regarding the case, and were in agreement that she knew of the proceedings.

The committee found that in breach of Clauses 1 and 5.1 of the Code of Conduct she failed to adequately inform her client of the advantages and disadvantages of hypnosis, recommend alternative methods of therapy and advise her client that no technique can reliably recover memories; and in breach of Sections 9 and 14 of the *Guidelines for Psychologists Working with Clients in*

Contexts in Which Issues Related to Recovered Memories May Arise failed to avoid being drawn into searching for memories of abuse and failed to avoid engaging in activities and techniques that are intended to reveal indications of past sexual abuse of which the client had no memory.

Mrs Sinclair was also found to be in breach of Clause 3.4, having failed to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the consent obtained from her client was valid because of the failures to give information detailed above.

The decision of the Conduct Committee was to severely reprimand Mrs Sinclair and impose a condition on her membership that in future consultations where hypnosis is a possible intervention with a client she must take full notes of the consultation and present these during her supervision sessions. Mrs Sinclair will also be required to present her signed supervision notes to the Society on quarterly basis, with the first to be received by 31 January 2008.

December 2007