



## **ABTC Statement**

This information is to follow on from our open letter (you can find it here, if you don't have it to hand: <https://abtc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Practitioner-UKAS-Info-November-2022.pdf>) to all practitioners regarding an update on United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation.

We wish to reiterate that the ABTC has previously been in lengthy discussion with the RCVS for several years regarding possible regulation of all our practitioners in all roles by them. However, changes to the RCVS' overall plan for regulation of paraprofessionals, announced earlier this year, means progress is unlikely for at least 5 years. This is because a change in legislation is necessary, if, as the ABTC considers essential, the entire training and behaviour sector is to be included. Thus, the ABTC has had to reconsider its strategy in this respect. Therefore, other routes of regulation and accreditation have been considered, whilst we continue an open and constructive dialogue with the RCVS.

As mentioned in our open letter, this new direction includes accreditation via UKAS. They are an independent body, appointed by government, to assess and accredit organisations that provide services including certification, testing, inspection, and calibration. UKAS accreditation means that UKAS will be ensuring that ABTC assesses and upholds standards in the way it says it does. UKAS accreditation would be a major step towards meeting the aims of the ABTC in providing wide and formal recognition of its qualified, assessed, and regulated Training and Behaviour Practitioners. Governments are fully aware of our intention and supportive of better regulation of training and behaviour roles.

We want to reassure all Practitioners registered with the ABTC through their member organisations, that we continue to support you. Furthermore, we continue to do our utmost to serve you in our role as regulator, and this includes reviewing everything in preparation for UKAS. One aspect of our regulatory role is the regular review of all course provision and assessment processes, to ensure that the standards for both Knowledge & Understanding and Performance Criteria are upheld for all roles. The existing ABTC role standards will remain unchanged.

To reiterate, nothing has changed in our role as regulator, and we continue to have open dialogue with all our member organisations regarding regulation and other matters.

Thank you

ABTC Board of Trustees

14 December 2022