[Date]

Post-Registration Standards Consultation

Professional Practice Directorate

Nursing and Midwifery Council

23 Portland Place

London

W1B 1PZ

Via email to consultations@nmc-uk.org

Dear Colleagues,

**NMC Proposed Post-Registration Standards for Specialist Practitioner Qualifications**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Post-Registration Standards consultation in a letter in addition to the online survey.

I am [detail your role, the size of the organisation you work in e.g., budget, number of staff, the range of services provided and whether you are in an urban, rural or a mixed area].

I am the professional lead for nursing and manage a wide range of community nursing services including district nursing, community children’s nursing services, community learning disabilities and community mental health. [Please amend/delete as appropriate]

I am the executive nurse in a health board, CCG, PCN and I am responsible for a wide range of community services including District Nursing, General Practice Nursing, Community Children’s Nursing, Community Learning Disabilities and Community Mental Health. [Please amend/delete as appropriate]

As a senior nurse leader, I am writing to express my concern about the lack of distinct specialist standards of proficiency (‘bespoke’ standards) to differentiate the various professional nursing roles in the community. My experience is that while these roles share some common standards (as the NMC have articulated) they also require field-specific standards of proficiency in order that community specialist practitioners may provide the safest and most effective care. The level of care provided by these expert practitioners working at an advanced level of practice in high-risk environments goes far beyond the standards for entry level, initial nurse registration.

I believe that without field-specific standards of proficiency, services will find it increasingly difficult to deliver on national NHS priorities, such as increasing care outside of hospital and the two-hour crisis response service in England. In addition, without the appropriate and consistent level of preparation for the community nurses leading and managing our services, there is a greater risk that the quality of care will be significantly diminished.

In order to ensure safe and effective care, I would urge the Nursing and Midwifery Council to reconsider the need for field-specific standards of proficiency for all five existing Specialist Practitioner Qualification areas and for those areas of community nursing that are currently without a field-specific annotation, for example Care Home Nursing and Inclusion Health Nursing.

Without these, the nursing services for which I have responsibility will almost certainly be compromised.

Yours faithfully,

**[Print Name]**

**[Designation]**