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Dear Derek,

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the Future of the Federation for Healthcare Science (FHCS), please find the Association of Anatomical Pathology Technology response below.

Since the inception of the FHCS in 2002 the Association of Anatomical Pathology Technology (AAPT) has been keen supporters. The FHCS has allowed the AAPT to link with other small professional groups, as well as the large well established professional bodies, and have an opinion and voice in many relevant matters.

It is unfortunate in the opinion of the AAPT that interest and support for the FHCS has waned as the Academy for Healthcare Science has become established over the last 18 months.

The federation has helped AAPT in many areas not least Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) where the collective voice helped to make several key changes to the original proposals and ultimately led to a review for Anatomical Pathology.

AAPT are as guilty as other professions of not attending FHCS meetings as other matters, such as MSC discussions with the Department of Health, have diverted our attention and time. As with many groups it is all about being able to dedicate time when we are involved in so many different discussions. Obviously if the FHCS is to continue as a professional body we need to ensure we have representation at all future meetings and take an active role in any relevant actions.

The concern going forward for AAPT is that if the FHCS is to cease to exist where will our profession be represented? We note that the "Federation of Healthcare Science" has a seat on the new Council of the AHCS but AAPT as a professional body does not. As one of the aspirant professions supporting regulation we feel we need to be represented. If the FHCS is unsustainable the AAPT will not have representation at the AHCS, therefore the AAPT would continue to support FHCS in the future for this reason.

If the FHCS does continue then AAPT would endeavour to provide a suitable candidate for Chair with the appropriate background and knowledge to help take the FHCS forward.

Ishbel Gall
Chair-Elect AAPT