

against many of the practices which, as BABP have argued, are unethical.

It is perhaps in this area that BABP, as a multidisciplinary organisation, could make a real contribution to the practice of several professions, by getting a lawyer to draw together all the legal aspects of confidentiality, responsibility, misrepresentation of benefits from treatment etc. One has in mind the liabilities arising out of common law e.g. relating to negligence, statutory duties, trespass to the person, privacy and so on not to mention any statutory limitations that may be set by the Trades Descriptions Act or whatever. This would be both a useful and an important step since these legal aspects constitute an implicit code of professional practice that already exists and any binding professional standards proposed by BABP could only make them explicit or add to them.

Yours faithfully,

Bernard Kat
Senior Clinical Psychologist
St. Georges' Hospital, Morpeth, Northumberland.

Dear Sir,

I found Mr. Kat's letter interesting and useful but was somewhat intrigued by the first paragraph. We cannot, of course, bind the membership to an ethical code without consultation — this would require a constitutional change which would have to be considered by the membership at an A.G.M. Also, surely Mr. Kat's very letter is in response to the request for feedback. In addition, he says that he wonders 'whether the Executive's policy (i.e. on the Registration of Psychotherapists) has not finally led up a blind alley'. He may well be right but must, I fear, accept that this is actually the Association's policy since it was passed as acceptable at the last A.G.M.; personally, I should more than welcome viable alternative suggestions since the Report will shortly be published which will increase the amount of public debate. So, any ideas?

Antonia Whitehead,
B.A.B.P. Chairman.