

Characteristics of Regulatory Bodies and Professional Bodies

There is no one model for the differences between the two types of organisations. The following table highlights some of the key differences, with essential elements of a regulatory body marked by an **asterisk** *.

Regulatory Body	Professional Body
Acts in the interest of the public and has processes open and accountable to the public and the profession	Acts in the interest of the Profession
Independent of professional bodies	Independent of the regulatory body
Promotes the process of regulation	Promotes and supports the practitioners and the profession
Holds a single register of practitioners who meet agreed standards of training and practice.*	A membership organisation of professional practitioners
Works with the profession to agree and oversee minimum standards. This includes the development of National Occupational Standards (NOS)*	Ensures members meet its own standard's which are at least those required by the regulatory body but may exceed them.
Requires evidence of professional insurance*	Many professional bodies provide information on insurance for members
Sets minimum requirements for continuing professional development (CPD) *	Ensures members meet requirements for CPD. May provide and/or recommend suitable courses to members
Publishes codes of conduct and/or ethics*	May also have codes for members, which would be at least that required by the regulatory body
Has a 'council' or governing body which includes lay and professional representatives*	May also have a council or governing body with lay representation
Has published complaints & disciplinary procedures*	May also have complaints & disciplinary procedures
Acts on complaints from the public, liaising with a professional body where necessary*	If necessary will liaise between practitioners and the regulatory body in the case of a complaint.
Provides information to the public about the therapy and what to expect.	May also provide information to the public.
Develops and recommends a core curriculum for the profession	Ensures courses cover the core curriculum.
Accredits courses* (This may be carried out by an independent accreditation board but this will be distinct from the professional bodies)	Some professional bodies are linked to specific schools so would run and develop courses. Others hold lists of suitable schools.
Liaises with government and other organisations when required.	Professional bodies may also liaise with other organisations and government, but not as the 'voice' of the discipline.
Operates Fitness to Practise procedures to remove practitioners from the register	

