

## CONVOCAATION MARCH 2019

### **Presentation speech for Professor Kate Bullen for the degree of Doctor of Science of the University *honoris causa***

Chancellor:

Our School of Medicine and our Department of Psychology are among the great success stories of the University of Buckingham. It is therefore a very great pleasure to present our Honorand who has had a distinguished and varied career in both fields – and in much more besides.

Professor Kate Bullen's work has spanned the NHS, the voluntary sector and higher education. She trained originally as a therapeutic radiographer, clinical tutor and counsellor. After working for the NHS for ten years, she studied Psychology at the University of Swansea, where she was awarded her PhD in 2001. After holding a number of academic posts, she joined the University of Aberystwyth in 2007 to develop a new Psychology Department. At Aberystwyth she was University Director of Ethics and Equality. She is now Professor of Psychology and Head of the School of Applied Social Science at the University of Brighton. She is also President of the British Psychological Society.

Professor Bullen established a cancer charity in South Wales in 1992, providing psychological support for patients and families. This now has branches across three countries and provides support to over 15,000 people each year. A long term commitment to increasing understanding of less well-resourced male uro-genital cancers led to successful research grant applications. Since 2009 she has been an expert reviewer for Prostate Cancer UK and has provided voluntary training on the psychosexual aspects of end-of-life care for healthcare professionals in Wales and more recently in the South East.

Above all, Professor Bullen's career has been one of a commitment to social justice, particularly in the field of women's leadership and development in higher education; throughout the common thread has been the recognition of unequal opportunities and a determination to make a difference. As a senior academic she has been involved with the Equality Challenge Unit's Athena SWAN chartermark scheme.

Her predecessor as President of the BPS says of her:

I see Kate as a real force for good. She's got the capacity to think and reflect on things, to be open-minded, she listens, and at the same time she can challenge and be persistent when she needs to. She walks the talk on her commitment to inclusion and ethics. Above all, she's generous with her expertise and knowledge, and never fails to help out. With all the seriousness of her purpose in life, she carries her achievements modestly and allows a fun sense of humour out to play too.

Chancellor, I call upon you to confer upon Professor Kate Bullen the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.