

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting 14th & 15th December 2011

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 12:30hrs on Wednesday 14th December and at 08:30hrs on Thursday 15th December 2011 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Professor Kieran Murphy (President)
Dr Richard Brennan
Mr Brendan Broderick
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Professor Gerard Bury
Mrs Anne Carrigy
Dr Anna Clarke (Vice-President)
Dr Regina Connolly
Dr Deirdre Madden
Professor John McAdoo

Professor Damien McLoughlin
Mr Frank McManus
Dr John Monaghan
Ms Marie Murray
Ms Margaret Murphy
Professor Diarmuid O'Donoghue
Dr Daniel O'Hare
Dr David O'Keeffe
Professor William Powderly
Mr Michael Ryan

APOLOGIES

Dr Pauline Kane
Ms Marie Kehoe
Dr John O'Mullane

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)
Mr Marcus Balfe (Head of Finance)
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)
Mr William Kennedy (Head of Professional Standards and Legal Adviser)
Dr Paul Kavanagh (Head of Professional Competence)
Mr Jim McDermott (Head of ICT & Operations)
Mr Philip Brady (Head of Registration)
Ms Ciara McMorrow (Corporate Services)
Mr Diarmuid Coen (Professional Standards)
Mr John Sidebottom (Professional Standards)

Note:

A Private Session was taken prior to the commencement of the Council meeting. Following completion of this session, the Council meeting was formally commenced.

The President noted that there was a quorum of Council members present and, in noting that no declarations of interest were brought to the attention of the meeting, duly convened the meeting.

Item 1 – Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2011

- 1.1** The minutes of the meeting held on 25th October were reviewed and agreed pending inclusion of Mr Brendan Broderick's attendance.
- 1.2** The summary minutes of the meeting held on 25th October were also agreed for publication to the website pending inclusion of Mr Brendan Broderick's attendance.

Item 2 – Matters Arising from the Minutes

The President informed Council that Professor Anthony Cunningham intended to resign from the membership of Council.

Committees and Working Groups

Professional Development Committee

- 1. Council noted that Dr John McAdoo had agreed to Chair the Standard Monitoring Sub-Committee.
- 2. Council reviewed the documentation presented in relation to Osteopathic Medical Degrees and accepted the PDC recommendation to adopt the model of the Medical Council of New Zealand, with cases being referred to the Registration Working Group as and when required.
- 3. Council approved the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland and the Programme of Specialist Training in Anaesthesia for a period of five years.
- 4. Council noted that four Postgraduate Training Bodies had been reviewed to date with three more to take place within the next three months.
- 5. Two new additional intern posts in the Bon Secours Hospital Cork to be included in the January 2012 intake, in medicine and surgery, were approved.

Standards in Practice Committee

- 1. Council accepted the recommendations for the removal of conditions from the registration in respect of one doctor.
- 2. Council approved the lifting of undertakings for two doctors.
- 3. Council approved the restoration of a doctor to the Register with conditions attached.
- 4. Council accepted the recommendation that a doctor be entered in the Specialist Division of the Register on the basis of his experience.
- 5. Council refused the entry of a doctor to the Trainee Specialist Division on the basis of non-compliance with recommendations for remediation.

Professional Competence Committee

- 1. The amendments to the further draft rules 4 and 5 for the maintenance of professional competence following public consultation were approved.
- 2. Council accepted the revised Professional Competence Committee Terms of Reference.
- 3. Council approved the draft document *Medical Council's Performance Procedures and Activities - Guidance for Doctors* and directed that it be published on the website.

Note of the Policy Group meeting

1. Council approved the recommendation that all doctors who wish to enter the General Division must sit the PRES examination, excepting those to whom exemptions such as higher qualifications apply.

Nominations Sub-Committee

Council approved and the following nomination:

Standards in Practice Committee

Ms Geraldine Feeney

President's Business

1. Council accepted the nomination of Dr Patricia Cunningham, Consultant Radiologist, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, as the new appointee representing Council to the Board of Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland.
2. Dr Deirdre Madden was approved as the Council nominee to the Expert Group on the *A, B and C - v - Ireland* judgement of the European Court of Human Rights.

CEO's Business

Council members noted the CEO report which provided an update to members on a number of operational matters including:

1. The Business Plan 2012 - a final draft of which will be put before Council in January for approval.
2. 359 complaints have been received by Professional Standards in 2011 as at 2nd December.
3. Staff Communications - a new monthly staff newsletter has been developed and the first issue was published in December 2011.

Any Other Business

Council noted that the Calendar of Activities for 2012 was available on the Extranet, pending sign-off of additional detail to be included.

Date of next meeting

Council members were advised that the next scheduled Council meeting will take place at 08:30hrs on Thursday 26th January 2012. There being no further business the meeting concluded at 17:21hrs.