

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting

19th & 20th March 2015

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 12:30hrs on Thursday 19th and 08:30 hrs on Friday 20th March 2015 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr John Barragry
Dr Anthony Breslin
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Mr Declan Carey
Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Seán Curran
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr Rita Doyle
Dr Bairbre Golden

Dr Ruairi Hanley
Mr Seán Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson
Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan
Ms Margaret Murphy
Professor Colm O'Herlihy
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh
Ms Catherine Whelan

Apologies

Ms Mary Duff
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Professor Mary Leader
Councillor Sally Mulready
Mr John Nisbet

In attendance – full meeting

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)
Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council)
Ms Jan Fitzpatrick (Corporate Governance & Council Manager)

In attendance – for the relevant parts of the meeting

Mr Philip Brady (Head of Registration)
Dr Anne Keane (Director of Strategy & Governance)
Mr Jim Mc Dermott (Head of ICT)
Ms Úna O'Rourke (Head of Strategic Projects)
Ms Lorna Farren (Communications Manager)
Ms Wendy Kennedy (Finance Manager)
Ms Aoife Mellet (Solicitor, Regulation)
Ms Niamh Muldoon (Solicitor, Regulation)
Mr John Sidebottom (Senior Executive Officer, Regulation)

Note:

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

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th & 21st January, 2015 were agreed.

CEO's Business

Council members approved the CEO report which provided an update to members on a number of strategic, policy and operational matters. The CEO report included the following:

Council noted that specialist risk training was recently delivered to Risk Officers and staff members. Risk will also appear on the Council Away Day agenda where a session of Risk Appetite, engagement and awareness is planned.

The CEO provided Council with an update on the progress of the ongoing recruitment process. Council was advised that Dr Anne Keane has been appointed to lead on Governance, Business Planning, Strategy & Policy Development and central Project Management and the CEO commended her on the standard and high quality of her work.

Council was then advised that Ms Úna O'Rourke has been asked to lead on the development and management of the integration of the domains of competency and the change toward Quality Development and Quality Assurance & Monitoring in the Professional Development & Practice Directorate.

Council was reminded that a learning and policy development day will take place on Wednesday 29th April, 2015.

Council noted the progress on the Specialist Registration workload awaiting assessments or finalisation. Council also noted the number of Category 4 General Division applications and the number of applications received in 2015 compared to 2014.

The CEO updated Council with regard to the Inspector of Anatomy. It was noted that the Inspector is liaising with the Executive regarding the Code of Practice, Anatomy returns and Inspection Reports.

Council was advised of the ongoing activity with the Your Training Counts Survey 2014, and the planned second trainee survey for 2015.

President's Business

The President informed Council of the newly published priorities for the Department of Health for 2015. Council noted this item.

Committees and Working Groups

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

Professor O'Herlihy presented the report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee meeting held on 25th February 2015.

Council was updated of the inspection of University College Cork (and the upcoming inspection of National University of Ireland, Galway).

Professor O’Herlihy advised Council that following the completion of a comprehensive programme of undergraduate accreditation in the period 2008-2014, the Medical Council commenced the Annual Return (AR) process in 2013.

Council noted the upcoming intern training site inspections to the Beacon Hospital in Sandyford, Our Lady’s Hospital in Manorhamilton and a general practice site in Ballybofey.

Council was advised that a revised application for recognition of Military Medicine as a specialty has been received.

Council noted an update on the accreditation status of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine. The Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine (FoSEM), although recognised as a training body, has not yet been formally evaluated against Council’s postgraduate accreditation standards, primarily for the reason that there is currently no domestic programme of specialist training in sports and exercise medicine.

As mentioned in the CEO report, Council noted that the Inspector of Anatomy is liaising with the Executive regarding the Code of Practice, Anatomy returns and Inspection Reports. Electronic returns have now been received from Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Galway and University of Dublin, Trinity College and University College Cork for the calendar year 2014.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

Dr Breslin presented the report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held on 26th February 2015.

Council was advised that the audit of maintenance of professional competence commenced in October 2014 and the final deadline for response to audit was the 19th December 2014.

Council noted the upcoming changes contained within the EU Directive 2005/36/EC – Recognition of professional qualifications which will enable Council to test for language skills for EU doctors.

Nominations and Development Committee (NDC)

The President presented the report of the Nominations and Development Committee meeting held on 3rd March 2015

Council was advised that Expressions of Interest had been received from the following Council members for membership of the Monitoring Committee:

- Mr Declan Carey
- Ms Mary Duff

- Dr Ruairi Hanley
- Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan

Council approved the recommendations of the Committee to appoint Dr Steve Jones to the Professional Competence Assessor Sub-Committee

Results from the Learning & Development Survey 2015

Council noted that there has been a lot of positive feedback received on the learning and development sessions held last year agreed that the survey was a productive exercise.

Council Learning and Policy Development Day – 29th April 2015 – Agenda

Council noted this item.

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The Vice President presented the report of the Ethics & Professionalism Committee meetings held on 10th February and 10th March 2015.

Council approved the Committee's proposed amendments to wording of the Ethical Guide.

Council commended both the Vice-President and the committee members on the significant level of work and research that has been carried out to date in this review.

Health Committee (HC)

Dr Doyle presented the report of the Health Committee meetings held on 11th February & 11th March 2015.

Council noted the recommendation of the Committee in respect to five practitioners and agreed that each of the five be released from the support of the Committee. Council also noted that a significant number of review sessions have been completed since the last update.

Council noted the recommendation of the Committee that ongoing support be continued with reports and review sessions taken up and arranged as appropriate in respect of a number of practitioners.

Council noted that positive health reports were received and reviewed in respect to five practitioners and that a review session is scheduled for three of the practitioners in the coming month.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

Mr Sidebottom presented the report relating to the meeting of the Monitoring Committee held on 18th February, 2015.

Council noted the recommendation of the Committee that the conditions attached to the retention a doctor's name in the Register be removed having regard to their compliance with same.

Audit Strategy & Risk Committee (ASRC)

Mr Hurley presented the report of the Audit, Strategy & Risk Committee meeting held on 5th March 2015.

Council was presented with the Business Plan update, Corporate Risk Register and Records Retention Schedule and all were approved.

Appended to the report was a presentation on the Information Governance Framework Presentation for noting. It was agreed that once the Medical Council had implemented this framework, this would then be published and shared with similar regulatory agencies.

Registration Review Hearing (RRH)

Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that one doctor be refused registration on the Specialist Division in the specialty of Anaesthesia on the basis that the doctor does not meet the standards required. Council recommended that this doctor requires a further two years training at level SpR 4-5.

Media Log

Council noted the media log for the period: January 2015 to March 2015

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May at 12:30 hrs and Thursday 21st May 2015 at 08:30 hrs.