

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting

21st & 22nd January 2015

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 13:30hrs on Wednesday 21st and 08:30 hrs on Thursday 22nd January 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
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Dr Bairbre Golden
Mr Seán Hurley

Professor Alan Johnson
Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan
Professor Mary Leader
Councillor Sally Mulready
Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr John Nisbet
Professor Colm O'Herlihy
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh
Ms Catherine Whelan

Apologies

Ms Mary Duff
Dr Ruairi Hanley

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

Dr Paul Kavanagh (Director of Professional Development and Practice)
Mr Philip Brady (Head of Registration)
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)
Ms Deirdre Foley (Senior Executive Officer, Finance)

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.

The President informed Council of the recent death of former President and Council member Dr Harold Browne. It was agreed that formal condolences would be issued on behalf of Council.

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th & 17th December were agreed and signed by the President.

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:

The CEO advised Council that the communications plan for the publication of the Your Training Counts report has been implemented.

The CEO provided a HR update and advised Council that the recruitment process to fill 9 existing vacancies has recently commenced. In addition the Workforce Planning is progressing.

Council was advised of the increase in registration activity particularly in the Specialist Registration and Category 4 areas.

The CEO informed Council members that a communication has issued to all members regarding their obligations under the Ethics in Public Office Acts.

The CEO advised Council that the following matters which appear in the CEO report will be dealt with under separate agenda items:

- Draft Business Plan 2015
- Draft Budget 2015
- Ethical Guide

The CEO updated Council on the website performance metrics. There has been an increase in traffic to the website with almost 650,000 visits in 2014.

President's Business

The President informed Council of a meeting he and the CEO attended with the Minister for Health, Dr Leo Varadkar, and his officials, to discuss matters of significant importance to Council in its role in ensuring high standards of education, training and practice among doctors in the public interest. The President advised Council that the matter of resources to support the expanding regulatory functions was also discussed.

The President also informed Council of the discussion with the Minister regarding the ongoing work on the Council's Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics, and also the research study analysing the five years of complaints received, which will also inform the development of the Guide.

Committees and Working Groups

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The Vice President presented the report of the Ethics & Professionalism Committee meeting held on 6th January 2015.

Council was advised that the Committee has held a number of workshops to consider the revision of the Ethical Guide

Audit Strategy & Risk Committee (ASRC)

Mr Hurley presented the report of the Audit, Strategy & Risk Committee meeting held on the 9th January 2015. It was noted that this was an additional meeting held to discuss further options regarding the Medical Council Budget 2015 and a proposed fee increase.

Council was informed that clear and concise information would be included on the website including tax deductions available to registrants.

Council noted that 2014 OPOS declarations have been received from all Council Members

Registration Review Hearings

Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that two doctors be granted registration on the Specialist Division in the specialty of Anaesthesia on the basis that the doctors meet the standards required.

Appointment of Case Officers

Council considered the briefing note and further to Section 58 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, approved the appointment of Case Officers, on the authorised functions as specified by the Chair of the PPC.

Media Log

Council noted the media log for the period December 2014 to January 2015.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 19th March at 12:30hrs & Friday 20th March 2015 at 08:30hrs.