

Meeting No. 8 of 2016

MEDICAL COUNCIL

The 341st meeting of the Medical Council was held at 8th & 9th September, 2016 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT – 8th September, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)	Mr Sean Hurley
Dr John Barragry	Ms Marie Kehoe O’Sullivan
Dr Anthony Breslin	Professor Mary Leader
Ms Katharine Bulbulia	Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr Declan Carey	Dr Michael Ryan
Mr Fergus Clancy	
Dr Sean Curran	
Ms Mary Duff	
Dr Bairbre Golden	
Ms Cornelia Stuart	

Apologies

Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice-President)
Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Rita Doyle
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Professor Colm O’Herlihy
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Alan Johnson
Mr John Nisbet
Mr Tom O’Higgins
Dr Consilia Walsh

MEMBERS PRESENT – 9th September, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)	
Dr John Barragry	Mr Sean Hurley
Dr Anthony Breslin	Ms Marie Kehoe O’Sullivan
Ms Katharine Bulbulia	
Ms Mary Duff	
Professor Mary Leader	
Ms Margaret Murphy	
Dr Sean Curran	
Mr Tom O’Higgins	
Dr Michael Ryan	
Ms Cornelia Stuart	

Apologies

Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Rita Doyle
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Professor Colm O’Herlihy
Mr Declan Carey
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Bairbre Golden
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Alan Johnson
Mr John Nisbet
Dr Consilia Walsh

In attendance – full meeting

Mr Bill Prasifka (CEO)
Ms Jane Horan (Acting Secretary to Council & Head of Corporate Governance & Council) Ms Aoife Fitzsimons (Acting Corporate Governance & Council Manager)
Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)

In attendance – for the relevant parts of the meeting

Ms Wendy Kennedy (Director of Corporate Services)
Ms Úna O’Rourke (Head of Education, Training and Professionalism) Mr John Sidebottom (Head of Inquiries, Health & Monitoring)
Ms Deirdre Foley (Acting Head of Finance)
Ms Carine Pressers (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor) Ms Ruth Rock (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)
Mr Eoin Keehan (Registration Manager, Specialist Division) Ms Ciara McMorrow (Head of Procurement & Facilities)

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.

CEO’s Report and Balanced Scorecard

Council noted that the quarter 2 review of the 2016 Business Plan and Strategy had been presented to the Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee. The CEO advised Council that the implementation of the Project Review and Change Management Board and centralised Business Case Review process ahead of the 2017 Business Plan and budget preparation is underway.

The CEO advised Council of the decision to merge the Annual Report and Medical Workforce intelligence report released on Thursday, 25th August 2016. Council noted that there was significant interest with good media coverage, both national and regional. This included six radio interviews

with both national and regional stations. Print and radio coverage is valued at approximately €47,202 with TV at approximately €236,453. The CEO thanked the Communications team for all their hard work and professionalism in organising the successful event.

The CEO also provided an update in relation to the upcoming Patient Safety & Leadership conference taking place on 27th October, 2016. He advised that registration is open and the President urged Council members to attend.

The CEO provided Council with an update in relation to the current recruitment drive within the organisation.

The CEO updated Council in relation to the assessment of financial activity to date. Council noted that some activities are behind schedule and that there is increased activities in areas such as of Fitness to Practise Committee inquiries. Council were advised that the Executive are closely monitoring the flexed budget to ensure the implementation of the 2016 Business Plan and core operations of the Council can be achieved.

Council noted that the Your Training Counts Survey 2016 closed in August and the data from the Survey is being reviewed to allow for analysis in September.

Council noted that the Annual Retention completion rates are on course and that the backlog and queued work is being dealt with.

The CEO informed Council that the USA National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and accreditation (NCFMEA) meeting to review the Council's accreditation processes for undergraduate medical education is scheduled to take place in Washington on 19th and 20th September, 2016.

The CEO completed his report with an update on a number of stakeholder meetings of note.

President's Business

Inquiry Calendar

Council noted the current inquiry dates fixed for hearing and advised that members provide their availability to the Professional Standards Department

Nursing & Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) – Expressions of Interest

Council noted correspondence from Ms Orla Coady in relation to expressions of interests for members of the Fitness to Practise Committee of the Nursing Board.

It was agreed that any Council members wishing to express an interest would contact the Acting Secretary to Council directly.

Proposed dates for Council Meetings 2017

Council noted the schedule of meetings 2017.

Audit, Strategy & Risk Committee (ASRC)

The Report of the Audit, Strategy & Risk Committee held on 18th August, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted that the Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee had recommended that the Investment policy be reviewed on an annual basis. Overall the policy has not been materially amended. Clear definitions of the risk factors involved in investment management and the risk mitigation measures to be employed have been included in the updated policy. Council also noted that the Policy provides clarity on the Council's Service requirements which are clearly defined within the Policy with agreed service levels supporting the organisation's objectives.

Council noted the new items added to the Corporate Risk Register.

Council noted Q2 Management accounts and the 2016 flexed budget. It was further noted that the projected out-turn reported in the Flexed Budget is based mainly on controllable income and expenditure streams.

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

Council noted that, as the meeting failed to reach a quorum, a proposal to defer the Penang Medical College visit to 2018 was accepted via email circulation.

Council noted the Committee's recommendation that the Council's visit to Penang Medical College, which is due in Q1 2017, be deferred so that it can be combined with the planned visit to Perdana in Q1 2018.

Council approved the report of the Education, Training & Professional Development

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

The report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held on 25th August, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted that a meeting would take place during September to discuss the next steps in relation to the Safe Start Project.

Council noted that work on the Patient Safety Feedback pilot will continue to progress in September.

Council was advised that the current terms of reference had been approved by the Committee and would be sent to the Audit Strategy and Risk Committee.

Council noted the results of the second spring 2016 PRES Level 3 exams.

Council also noted the Committee's approval of the addition of the "Fellowship of the Australian College of Sports Physicians" as a qualification. Council noted that work will be undertaken to evaluate the underpinnings of the qualifications recognised by the Council for both the General and Specialist Divisions in order to assure itself of the standard of the qualifications recognised.

Council approved the report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee.

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The Report of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee meeting held on 25th August, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted the Committee has approved a vignette regarding “Professional Misconduct” which will be published on the Council’s website. Council also noted that vignette development continues on a wide range of topics and the Executive are collaborating with various external experts in drafting the vignettes, including indemnifiers, clinicians and the Practitioner Health Matters Programme in drafting the vignettes.

Council noted the Committee’s Work Plan for 2017.

Council approved the report of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

Draft Booklet for Patients

Council approved the draft Booklet for Patients which was revised following a targeted consultation process. Council noted that it would be sent to National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) for approval.

Draft Joint Guidance on Controlled Drug Prescribing

Council noted the draft Guidance on Safe Prescribing and Dispensing of Controlled Drugs prepared by the Joint Working Group on Safe Prescribing and Dispensing. Council was informed that a targeted consultation process would be undertaken before finalising the draft Guidance.

Health Committee (HC)

The report of the Health Committee meeting held on 18th August, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted the breakdown of the number of medical practitioners who are supported by the Health Committee.

Council noted the Committee’s recommendation that three practitioners be released from the support of the Committee in light of recent review sessions and the positive reports received from their respective treating healthcare professionals.

Council noted the number of review sessions and the Committee’s recommendation that ongoing support be continued as appropriate.

Council was updated in respect of the number of positive health reports received by the Committee.

Council noted that two practitioners had been offered the support of the Committee and review sessions for both practitioners have been arranged.

Council approved the report of the Health Committee.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

The report of the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 23rd June, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted the number medical practitioners who have conditions attached to the retention of their name in the Register.

Council approved the removal of the conditions attached to the retention of a practitioner's name in the Register.

Council noted that two practitioners had attended the meeting of the Committee to discuss the conditions recently attached to the retention of their names in the Register.

Council noted that correspondence and documentary evidence of compliance was received, where appropriate, from each of those other practitioners practicing within the jurisdiction with conditions attached to the retention of their name in the Register and that such further evidence would be taken up as when required in order to confirm compliance.

Council noted that a review of the bank of conditions previously drafted to assist the Fitness to Practice Committee and Medical Council when imposing conditions is underway.

Council approved the report of the Monitoring Committee.

Media Coverage Log covering period: July - August 2016

This Item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 25th October, 2016 at 12:30 hrs and Wednesday 26th October, 2016 at 08:30 hrs.