

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting

9th & 10th July 2014

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 14:00hrs on Wednesday 9th July and Thursday 10th July 2014 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 Sean Curran
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr Rita Doyle
Ms Mary Duff
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Dr Bairbre Golden

Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Alan Johnson
Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan
Professor Mary Leader
Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr John Nisbet
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh
Ms Catherine Whelan

Apologies

Mr Sean Hurley
Councillor Sally Mulready
Professor Colm O'Herlihy

In attendance

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)
Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)
Dr Paul Kavanagh (Director of Professional Development and Practice)
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council)
Ms Wendy Kennedy (Finance Manager)
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)
Ms Una O'Rourke (Head of Strategic Project Management)
Ms Aisling Malone (Solicitor, Regulation)
Ms Aoife Mellet (Solicitor, Regulation)
Ms Jan Fitzpatrick (Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services)
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 21st and 22nd May were agreed and signed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

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 was advised that the vast majority of doctors have successfully engaged in the annual retention process on or before 1st July.
- The CEO updated Council on the response rate to the Your Training Counts survey of approximately 50%, which represents close to 1,500 trainees. This exceeds expectations so far and it is expected that the closing date next week will encourage a spike in engagement.
- Council was reminded of the 2014 Joint Conference of International Physician Assessment Coalition (IPAC) & Coalition for Physician Enhancement (CPE) which is being hosted by the Medical Council of Ireland at Druids Glen Resort, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. The event will run from 4th – 6th September, with a conference theme of 'Remediating Performance – Linking Theory and Evidence with Practice'.
- Council noted that the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) bi-annual meeting and General Assembly (AGM) will take place in London from 9th – 11th September.
- The CEO advised Council that they are working actively with the HSE in order to ensure the Supervised Division Posts are processed in time in order to enable doctors to commence posts on Monday 14th July 2014.
- Council was advised that a submission had been made by the Medical Council on the Public Consultation on the White Paper on Universal Health Insurance.
- Council was updated on the e-Health Strategy and Health Identifiers Bill 2013.

President's Business

Medicines Management Education and Safety Initiative – Request for nomination to the Expert Advisory Panel

The President advised Council of a request received from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland for a nomination to the Expert Advisor Panel. It was agreed that Dr Barragry would be the Council's nominee and the NMBI would be advised of same.

Risk Management Update

The Chief Risk Officer (CRO) advised Council that the Risk Registers are to be reviewed and updated for the Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee meeting on 24th July 2014 and would be reported on in full at the September Council meeting. The CRO then briefly updated Council on movements within the Risk Register.

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

Professor Johnson presented the report to Council of the ETPDC meeting which was held on 11th June 2014.

- Council was informed of the next phase of postgraduate accreditation, which will focus on programmes of specialist training. Council approved the proposal of the Committee that the programmes of specialist training in Emergency Medicine, Respiratory Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, and Ophthalmic Surgery be prioritised under the next phase of postgraduate accreditation.
- Council was updated on the progress of the Quality Monitoring Sub-Committee and the Strategy and Policy Sub-Committee, and it was noted that both Sub-Committees are progressing well.
- Council was advised of the first meeting of the Student and Trainee Consultative Panel and advised that there was a good turnout of students and trainees on the day. It was agreed that a mechanism should be developed to inform the various bodies of these events, going forward. It was noted that the panel intends to meet again in the autumn.
- Council was provided with an overview of the upcoming accreditation activity, including an inspection of University College Cork and National University of Ireland, Galway to assess the impact of the termination of the twinning agreement with Allianz University College of Medical Sciences. Council was also updated on the inspection of RCSI Bahrain which is scheduled for October 2014.

- Council noted the recent work undertaken in the strategic development of the Pre-Registration Examination System.
- Council noted that the public consultation in relation to the recognition of vascular surgery as a specialty is underway. Responses received through the consultation, which closed on 4th July 2014, along with the observations of external bodies involved in the delivery of training in vascular surgery in other jurisdictions, will be brought to the next meeting of the ETPDC for consideration.
- Council was advised of the criteria which have been developed in relation to the quality assurance of sites which support the delivery of specialist training.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

Dr Breslin presented the report to Council of the RCPC meeting which was held on 12th June, 2014.

- Council considered the recommendations of the Committee regarding a doctor for a reported breach of conditions on their registration. Having considered the matter Council decided to make a complaint to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee pursuant to section 57 (d) of the Medical Practitioner's Act, 2007
- Council considered the recommendation of the Committee that the present 60 day window for seeking a Review hearing of a decision to refuse registration, as set out in the Council Review regulations, be altered to 28 days. Council agreed with the committee's recommendation to alter the review window.

Section 79 Listing (Removal for non-payment)

Council was advised of the Section 79 Listing where all registrants included in the list are written to and given 21 days to clarify their registrations status (complete an ARAF and pay fee or voluntarily withdraw) and reminded that it is illegal to practise medicine while unregistered. Failure to do so results in removal of those practitioners who do not take action.

Council noted that the HSE are provided with the list of removed doctors, to ensure that doctors in their employ are not rostered to work while unregistered. Council notes that a reminder to Private Hospitals will also issue to advise that all doctors in their employ are checked for registration with the Medical Council.

Nominations and Development Committee (NDC)

The President presented the report to Council of the NDC meeting which was held on 25th June 2014:

- The Nominations and Development Committee considered applications for the following Medical Council Committees:

- Fitness to Practise Committee – Professor Anthony Cunningham
- Quality Monitoring Sub Committee – Dr John Barragry

Council approved the recommendation of the committee to approve the above nominations.

- Council noted that the renewed call for expressions of interest for Education & Training Assessors would be issuing shortly. It was agreed that the invitation for expressions is to remain open-ended with reminders sent on a regular basis to encourage membership.
- Council noted the CPD Credits Summary document and it was agreed that a copy of same would be issued to all Council members. Council was advised that it is up to the relevant body to approve the CPD credits for reckoning purposes.

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The Vice President presented the report and recommendations to Council of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee meeting which was held on 24th June 2014.

- The Vice President gave an overview of the public consultation process which was conducted through Survey Monkey prior to reviewing the Ethical guidance. Council was advised that the majority of participants were doctors and the remainder were partner organisations. Council was then advised that the annual Omnibus research will be used later this year to obtain the views of a wholly representative sample from the general public. There will be further opportunities to consult the views of the general public, doctors and partner organisations once new guidance has been drafted.

Health Committee (HC)

Dr Doyle presented the report and recommendations to Council of the Health Committee meeting which was held on 25th June 2014.

- Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee that three practitioners be released from the support of the Committee.
- Council also considered the report concerning that a further 11 review sessions were conducted in respect of an equal number of practitioners. Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee that ongoing support be continued with reports and review sessions with respect to eight of these practitioners.
- In respect of two doctors Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee that both practitioners be requested to give an undertaking not to engage in the practice of medicine.
- In respect of one doctor Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee that this doctor be released from the undertaking to not engage in the practice of medicine.
- Council accepted the recommendations of the Committee that one doctor be offered the support of the Health Committee.
- Council noted the health reports received and reviewed by the Committee regarding 6 practitioners and that review sessions were either scheduled for 3 of the 6 practitioners.

- Council thanked the members of the Health Committee for their significant commitment and Dr Doyle expressed her thanks to Mr Sidebottom for his commitment in supporting the Committee. It was agreed that the President would write expressing Council's thanks to all concerned.

Registration Review Hearings

Council considered three reports from the RCPC concerning three individual doctors:

- Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that one doctor be granted registration on the Specialist Division in the specialty of Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery on the basis that the doctor meets the standards required.
- Council was advised of a request received from one doctor to defer consideration of this matter. Council approved this request and deferred consideration of this matter until the next Council meeting.
- Council decided that the particular level of experience was such that one doctor is eligible to be placed on the Specialist Division and should be granted registration in the specialty of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Media Log

This item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday 18th September at 12:30hrs and Friday 19th September 2014 at 08:30hrs