

**Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting
Meeting No. 1 of 2016**

MEDICAL COUNCIL

The 334th meeting of the Medical Council was held at 3rd & 4th February 2016 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT – 3rd February, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr John Barragry
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Dr Anthony Breslin
Professor Mary Leader
Mr Declan Carey
Dr Sean Curran
Ms Mary Duff

Dr Rita Doyle
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Dr Bairbre Golden
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson
Mr John Nisbet
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh

Apologies

Ms Anne Carrigy
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Mary Leader
Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr Tom O'Higgins
Professor Colm O'Herlihy

MEMBERS PRESENT – 4th February, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Dr John Barragry
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Dr Anthony Breslin
Professor Mary Leader
Dr Sean Curran
Ms Mary Duff

Dr Rita Doyle
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Dr Bairbre Golden
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh

Apologies

Mr Declan Carey
Ms Anne Carrigy
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Mary Leader
Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr John Nisbet
Mr Tom O'Higgins
Professor Colm O'Herlihy

In attendance – full meeting

Mr Bill Prasifka (CEO)

Ms Lisa Molloy (Head of Corporate Governance & Secretary to Council)

Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)

Ms Jane Horan (Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Governance and Council)

Ms Aoife Mellett (Solicitor, Regulation)

Ms Niamh Muldoon (Chief Risk Officer and Solicitor, Regulation)

In attendance – for the relevant parts of the meeting

Mr Philip Brady (Acting Director of Professional Development and Practice)

Ms Wendy Kennedy (Finance Manager)

Mr John Sidebottom (Senior Executive Officer, Regulation)

Ms Lorna Farren (Communications Manager)

Note of Private Session:

The President reminded Council members of the purpose of Council to better inform and protect the public in their dealings with the medical profession and set standards of registration, regulation, training at all levels and standards of continuing competence and practice.

There being no other matters raised the President then opened the Council meeting.

CEO's Business

3.1 CEO's Report and Balanced Scorecard

The CEO provided a status update on the Business Plan for 2016 and advised Council that a recent meeting had taken place with the Department of Health. The CEO advised that the Business Plan was well received and is consistent with the Departments own objectives.

The CEO updated Council in relation to the progress of the Workforce Plan (WFP).

The CEO outlined that there has been very active media engagement and complimented the Communications team for their hard work over the recent weeks. The CEO advised that he had been invited to speak on Prime Time in relation to a recent Fitness to Practice Committee inquiry but had declined as the case has not fully completed.

Council was updated in relation to the disposal of Lynn House and that formal approval is pending from the Minister, work to move to the open market is in progress. Further updates will be brought to the Audit Strategy & Risk Committee as they become available.

Council noted that ICT Department became aware of an attempted external attack on the Medical Council website that this was part of a larger attack on government websites – CSO, HSE and Department of Justice. ICT took appropriate steps to protect the Medical Council website and the website remained fully accessible. The CEO informed Council that he was satisfied that there was no

unauthorised access to our data or compromise of our website. The CEO assured Council that this matter will be reviewed going forward.

Council noted that the overall first-time application processing completion rates remain on an upward trend.

The CEO advised Council that the accreditation team comprising of Council representatives, external experts and executive support visited RCSI Perdana in mid-January and a report will be brought to the Council through the Education, Training & Professional Development Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

The CEO completed his report with an update on a number of stakeholder meetings of note and drew the Council attention to a positive meeting with Minister Varadkar to discuss issues of common interest between the Medical Council and the Department of Health.

President's Business

Council considered correspondence from Runai Aire seeking nominations from Council for two members to sit on the Advisory Committee of the EPA. Council approved the expressions of interest from Dr Regina Kiernan, Specialist in Public Health Medicine and from Dr Anthony Breslin for membership of this committee.

Ms Farren, Communications & Strategy Manager presented a quantitative piece of omnibus research. This piece of research has been undertaken since 2011 to assess public awareness of and confidence in the Medical Council's primary activities and since 2014 with members of the profession. It was noted that research with the profession was developed in-house at no cost and Council noted that the executive propose to publish different aspects of the data during 2016.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

The report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held on 14th January, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council approved the list of specialist qualifications for the purpose of registration in the specialist division pursuant to section 47(1)(f) of the MPA 2007.

Council was advised that a number of medical practitioners have chosen not to seek a review of the RCPC's decision to refuse registration and the review window is now expired. Council confirmed the decision of the RCPC to refuse registration to the practitioners concerned.

Council noted that further development is underway in relation the Safe Start programme, noting the project will be expanded to include Irish medical school graduates in the sampling.

Council noted that the Patient Feedback Pilot is expected to commence in late February 2016.

Council noted the Committee's approval for the recommendation of the Examinations Subcommittee not to uphold seven appeal requests.

Council noted the recommendations for the qualifications listed in the report, as qualifications to exempt applicants from the PRES 2 Exam for registration in the Supervised Division.

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

Nominations and Development Committee (NDC)

The report of the Nominations and Development Committee meeting held on 3rd February, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to re-appoint Ms Mary Duff to the Health Committee.

Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Dr Vivienne Mee to the ICT Sub-Committee.

Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Ms Katharine Bulbulia, Ms Anne Carrigy and Dr Michael Ryan to panel of Lay Observers for Anatomy Inspections.

Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to appoint Ms Ailis Quinlan to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee.

The President updated Council with regard to the results of the Learning and Development Survey and the proposal that a number of key speakers from various agencies would be invited to provide short presentations before the commencement of the Council meetings on suitable topics.

Council approved the report of the Nominations & Development Committee.

Health Committee

The report of the Health Committee meeting held on 27th January, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to release one practitioner from the support of the Committee on the basis that it was unclear whether the practitioner is suffering from a health issue. Council further approved the recommendation that the referral letter in respect to the practitioner be referred to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee pursuant to section 57 of the MPA 2007.

Council approved the recommendation of the Committee to released one practitioner from the support of the Committee on the basis that there is no evidence of an ongoing opiate abuse problem.

Council noted that 10 review sessions had been conducted in respect of an equal number of practitioners and that three review sessions were scheduled for January 2016.

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 in February.

Council approved the report of the Health Committee.

Media Coverage Log covering period: January – February 2016

This item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted the will be held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at 12:30 hrs and Wednesday 23rd March 2016 at 08:30 hrs.