

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting 31st January 2013

A meeting of the Medical Council was held at 08:30hrs on Thursday 31st January 2013 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Professor Kieran Murphy (President)
Dr Richard Brennan
Mr Brendan Broderick
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Professor Gerard Bury
Dr Anna Clarke (Vice-President)

Ms Marie Kehoe – O’Sullivan
Professor Damien McLoughlin
Dr John Monaghan
Ms Marie Murray
Professor Diarmuid O’Donoghue
Dr David O’Keeffe
Dr John O’Mullane

APOLOGIES

Mrs Anne Carrigy
Dr Regina Connolly
Dr Pauline Kane
Dr Deirdre Madden
Professor John McAdoo
Mr Frank McManus
Ms Margaret Murphy
Dr Daniel O’Hare
Dr Michael Ryan

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Caroline Spillane (CEO)
Mr Marcus Balfe (Head of Finance)
Dr Anne Keane (Head of Education & Training)
Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation and Legal Adviser)
Dr Paul Kavanagh (Director of Professional Development and Practice)
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council, Head of Corporate Services & HR)
Mr Jim McDermott (Head of ICT & Operations)
Mr Philip Brady (Head of Registration)
Ms Jan Fitzpatrick (Corporate Services)
Ms Finola O’Dwyer (Professional Standards)
Mr John Sidebottom (Professional Standards)
Mr David Holland (Senior Counsel)

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

The minutes of the 295th meeting held on 12th and 13th December 2012, the 296th meeting held on 7th January 2013 were agreed and signed.

CEO's Business

Council members noted the CEO report which provided an update to members on a number of operational matters including:

- Council noted the activity on the website, which amounted to nearly 500,000 visits in 2012 and of which approximately 250,000 visits related to the "Search for a Doctor" facility. It was further noted that there was considerable media interest surrounding the Oireachtas Joint Commission submissions.
- Council noted the success of the Online Portal for Doctors (OPD) as being a significant support for all registrants and the workload of the Medical Council staff. It was noted that the OPD is now accessible over a wide variety of browsers making it more accessible and user friendly, while maintaining the required security features.
- It was noted that the election process will be conducted electronically via the Medical Council Online Portal for Doctors (OPD). Council noted that doctors will be required, if they have not already done so, to register first on the OPD in order that they can cast their vote.
- Council was advised of the comprehensive communication strategy surrounding the election process. An advertisement was placed in the Irish Times and on the Medical Council website on the 30th January and a further advertisement will appear in the Irish Medical News on the 1st February. This will be followed by a number of correspondences directly to doctors via both post and email.
- Council was provided with an overview of the EAPH conference which is being jointly hosted by the Medical Council and the ICGP on the 11th and 12th April.

Committees and Working Groups**Professional Development Committee**

Council approved the report of the PDC which included the following items:

- Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that Intensive Care Medicine should be approved as a specialty under Section 89(1) of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007.
- Council accepted the recommendation of the Committee that Neonatology should be approved as a specialty under Section 89(1) of the Medical Practitioners Act.
- Council noted the Examinations Review by Dr Eric S Holmboe

Standards in Practice Committee

- Council approved the report of the SiPC including the approval of graduates who were undertaking internships in Malta. It was advised that these candidates would be eligible for registration to the General Division (PRES exempt). However, these candidates would need to complete the PRES in order to access the Trainee Specialist Division. Council approved this recommendation.
- Council approved the recommendations of the SiPC regarding the report of the Adjudication Group into the comparability of Intern training in South Africa to Intern training in Ireland. The Committee recommend that any applicant who has successfully completed an internship in South Africa and been awarded the equivalent of a “Certificate of Experience” by the HPCSA, should be exempt from the PRES, where the internship was commenced after 1st July 2006.
- Council also approved the recommendation of the SiPC in relation to the conditions applied to a number of doctors

Professional Competence Committee

Council approved the report of the PCC which included the following items:

- Maintenance of professional competence audit – Update on Audit pool 2012/13
- GMC Presentation by Prof Malcolm Lewis - Revalidation - Towards Implementation

Audit Committee

Council approved the report of the Audit Committee.

Date & Time of Next Meeting

Council noted that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th at 12:30 hrs & Thursday 21st March 2013 at 08:30 hrs.