



Comhairle na
nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Appointment to the Medical Council

Information Booklet

Membership of the Medical Council

Functions of the Council

The Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors in Ireland. The Council consists of 25 members. It has a staff of approximately 145 personnel.

The Medical Council is the body responsible for the regulation of registered medical practitioners in Ireland under the Medical Practitioner's Act 2007 ('the Act'). The primary responsibility of the Council is described in the Act as being 'the protection of the public'. The Council has a range of functions that enable it to fulfil this responsibility.

Our functions are:

- Setting, monitoring and maintaining the standards of education and training for registered medical practitioners
 - standards for the maintenance of professional competence
 - standards of professional conduct for registered medical practitioners.
- Maintaining the register of medical practitioners, establishing procedures and criteria for registration and the issue of certificates of registration and renewal.
- Managing complaints made about doctors to ensure that the public is protected and that doctors are fit to practise.

The Medical Council was established under the Medical Practitioners Act, 1978, as amended in 2007 (Medical Practitioners Act 2007). The Medical Council continues to work in accordance with pending amending legislation, the Regulated Professions (Health and Social Care) (Amendment) Acts 2020 and 2023. The Medical Council receives no state funding and is funded primarily by doctors' registration fees.

There are approximately 35,000 doctors registered with the Medical Council. It is funded by the annual payment of fees by registered doctors – the Council receives no State funds.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is public protection, ensuring safe and professional doctors.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a trusted, compassionate and effective regulator of doctors.

Our Values

Trust

We act with integrity, honesty and consistency.

Respect

We treat everyone with dignity, kindness, compassion and fairness, embracing diversity, equality and inclusion.

Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions and decisions to transparently meet our obligations as a regulatory body.

Collaboration

We proactively engage and work with everyone to achieve our shared goals.

Excellence

We achieve excellence through continuous improvement, empowerment, innovation and learning.

Time Commitment

Council's current calendar for 2026 has 4 scheduled Governance meetings which are mandatory. Additionally, there are currently 16 scheduled regulatory meetings and Council members will be required to attend an equitable proportion of these meetings to share the workload across these meetings. Attendance is also expected at virtual / in person induction and training events.

As well as attending the Governance and Regulatory meetings of Council, Council members will be nominated to serve on either the Preliminary Proceedings Committee or the Fitness to Practise Committee and will also be nominated to another Committee of Council. The current Committee structure is set out below.

Members may also be required to form part of additional committees, sub-committees, steering/working groups and medical school and post-graduate training body inspections as needs arise.

Council members will be required to devote as much time to the duties of Council as necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of their duties. This will include significant time to prepare for Council and committee meetings, allowing sufficient time to read the relevant documents and papers issued for such meetings.

Board members are obliged to comply with the relevant provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016. This Code includes a description of the role and responsibilities of Board Members. Board members will be further expected to comply with the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Legislation as appropriate.

Committees

To support Council in delivering its significant role and remit, Council have put in place a governance structure, supported by committees, focusing on aspects of the Council's work.

Council benefits from the expertise and experience of many committee members, who assist Council in delivering its core functions in the interest of patient safety. There are also several further panels and Working Groups which report to and assist the Committees.

Serving on a Medical Council Committee offers members the unique opportunity to contribute to the operation of the regulatory environment that protects the public and supports doctors. It also allows members to directly influence the successful development and implementation of the Medical Council's strategy.

The current Committee structure as devised by the Medical Council are set out below:

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

Supports the Council in their responsibilities for issues of risk and control by reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting the Council's and Accounting Officer's assurance needs and reviewing the reliability and integrity of these assurances; to ensure compliance with best practice in policies, processes and controls across the organisation and to review and make recommendations on the budget and expenditure of the organization.

Fitness to Practise Committee (FtPC)

Charged with conducting oral inquiries into doctors' fitness to practise, determining in the region of 90 matters per year, with up to 140 hearing days per year.

Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC)

Charged with giving initial consideration to complaints against registered medical practitioners, in the region of 400 complaints per year.

Education and Training Committee (ETC)

Supports the Council in quality assuring medical education and training in Ireland so that patients can be assured that doctors are adequately prepared to provide good quality care to patients. It does this by ensuring a quality assurance framework that applies the principles of right-touch regulation appropriate for the Irish context yet in keeping with best international regulatory practices

Registration and Continuing Practise Committee (RCPC)

Oversees matters relating to registration of doctors to the Register of Medical Practitioners, Professional Competence, Performance Assessment and registration appeal hearings.

Health Committee (HC)

Monitors and supports doctors to maintain their registration during illness and/or disability.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

Monitors compliance by doctors with the conditions imposed on their registration.

Registration Adjudication Committee (RAC)

Determines non-standard applications for registration in the first instance.

Finance Advisory Committee (FAC)

The Committee is responsible for making recommendations to Council on strategic financial decisions and projects, monitoring and advising on the stability of the Council's financial position and advising the Council on the optimal investment strategy for the Council's investment portfolio.

Section 60 Committee

The Chair shall appoint panels from among the Committee membership to discharge the duties of the Committee. A summary of the main function of the Committee is to decide whether to apply to the High Court to suspend the registration of a medical practitioner to protect the public or to accept an undertaking from or on behalf of a registered medical practitioner in lieu of applying to the High Court if this is sufficient to protect the public until further steps are taken.

The work and associated time commitment for of Committee membership
Committees can be significant, and can also include participation in Working Group

Experience and expertise

Ideally nominees should have extensive experience at an appropriately senior level in **at least one but preferably two or more** of the following:

- Corporate Governance
- Risk Management and compliance oversight
- Financial management, audit, budgetary oversight (membership of a recognised accounting body in Ireland would be preferred)
- Strategy development and planning
- People, culture and organisational strategies, including workforce planning, diversity and inclusion
- Change management
- Patient Safety
- Regulation
- Law, Complaint handling, Tribunals, quasi-judicial decision-making processes
- Education & Lifelong training
- Digital strategy / emerging technologies including AI

Additional desirable experience:

- A relevant qualification (if applicable)
- An ability to support informed, legally compliant decision-making in a complex regulatory environment.
- Knowledge of the legal and regulatory environment, as applicable to the Medical Council and its relationships with key stakeholders
- Knowledge of the Irish Health System, regulatory environs and higher education system
- Knowledge/experience of corporate governance and understanding of public sector governance frameworks and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
- Previous Board experience and understanding of the oversight role of a Board particularly in terms of leadership, good corporate governance, strategy, financial and risk management and acting in the public interest as a body corporate.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with proven ability to build key relationships and consensus among diverse stakeholders

Board members should ideally:

- Show initiative, effective judgement, analytical thought and reasoned decision making.
- Be open-minded, consider diverse opinion and show independent thinking
- Be improvement focussed
- Have effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Be objective, proportionate, consistent and fair in the consideration of all board matters
- Possess a strong sense of ethics, integrity and probity.

Consistent with best corporate governance practice it is recommended that no member of a State Board should hold appointment to more than two State Boards.

Terms of office

A term of office is for a period not exceeding 3 or 5 years. Members may be appointed for a second term, subject to election, renomination and Ministerial approval. The maximum duration of appointment on Council is 8 years, and no member may serve more than 2 consecutive terms. Terms of office are subject to the requirements of the Act, and:

- The membership of any member of the Medical Council may be terminated by the Minister at any time, on the basis of reasons to be stated by the Minister.
- A member of the Medical Council may resign his or her membership of Council by notice in writing sent or given to the Minister, and the resignation shall take effect on the day on which the Minister receives the notice.
- Members of Council shall, subject to the provisions of Schedule 2, hold office upon such terms and conditions as the Minister may, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, from time to time determine.
- The roles and responsibilities of Board/Council Members are described in the Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 which is available on the website of the Department of Finance Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
- A Council Member shall cease to be a member of Council if he or she is nominated as a member of Seanad Éireann, is elected as a member of either House of the Oireachtas or as a representative in the European Parliament, elected to the European Parliament, or becomes a member of a local authority.

Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion

The Medical Council is keen to promote equality, diversity and inclusion at all levels of the Organisation. Ideally, a board and its committees should reflect the stakeholders its decisions impact, namely patients and doctors.

The impact of Council and its Committees reflects the input from its members, and diverse committees can only positively impact those we support. All interested parties are encouraged to consider putting themselves forward, and in particular those who have moved to Ireland and now work in the Irish healthcare system.

Remuneration

The current remuneration is €7,696 per annum. In line with the 'One Person One Salary' (OPOS) Principle, a public servant will not be entitled to receive remuneration in the form of board fees. Travel and subsistence is payable at appropriate civil service rates.

Conflict of interest

Please give careful consideration to the possibility of any potential conflict of interest that may exist, should you be appointed to Council.

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual's personal interests – family, friendships, financial, or social factors – could compromise, or appear to compromise, their judgment, decisions, or actions.

All Council and Committee members appointed will be required to submit details relating to their employment and all other business interests including shareholdings, professional relationships etc. which could involve or be perceived to involve, a conflict of interest that could materially influence the member.

Examples of conflict:

- Current employment and any previous employment
- Employment in which you continue to have a financial interest.
- Appointments (voluntary or otherwise) e.g. trusteeships, directorships, local authority membership, tribunals etc.
- Membership of any professional bodies or special interest groups
- Investments in unlisted companies, Partnerships and other forms of business, major shareholdings and beneficial interests.
- Gifts or hospitality offered by external Bodies in the last twelve months.
- Any contractual relationship with the Medical Council.

Location

Medical Council, Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2. Currently all Governance meetings are taking place in person and all Regulatory meetings are taking place remotely.

Other relevant documentation

- Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies:
- <https://govacc.per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Code-of-Practice-for-the-Governance-of-StateBodies.pdf>
- Medical Council Corporate Governance Framework: [corporate-governance-framework-.pdf](#)
- Medical Council Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024: www.medicalcouncil.ie/news-and-publications/publications/medical-council-annual-report-and-financial-statements-20241.pdf
- Medical Council Statement of Strategy 2025-2028: [medical-council-statement-of-strategy-2025-2028.pdf](#)
- Members of the Medical Council & Committees - Code of Conduct: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/about-us/the-medical-council/code-of-conduct-final-august-2018.pdf>
- Conflict of interest policy: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/about-us/the-medical-council/conflict-of-interest-policy-2025.pdf>