

Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting

Meeting held on 8th & 9th February 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT – 8th February, 2017

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr John Barragry
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Dr Anthony Breslin
Ms Anne Carrigy
Dr Sean Curran
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Rita Doyle
Dr Bairbre Golden

Dr Ruairi Hanley
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Alan Johnson
Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr John Nisbet
Mr Tom O'Higgins
Ms Marie Kehoe-O'Sullivan
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh

Apologies

Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Mr Declan Carey
Ms Mary Duff
Professor Fidelma Dunne
Professor Mary Leader
Professor Colm O'Herlihy

MEMBERS PRESENT – 9th February, 2017

Professor Freddie Wood (President)
Dr John Barragry
Dr Anthony Breslin
Ms Katharine Bulbulia
Ms Ann Carrigy
Dr Sean Curran
Mr Fergus Clancy
Dr Rita Doyle
Dr Rita Doyle
Professor Fidelma Dunne

Dr Bairbre Golden
Dr Ruairi Hanley
Professor Alan Johnson
Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr Rom O'Higgins
Ms Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan
Dr Michael Ryan
Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Consilia Walsh

Apologies

Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice President)
Mr Declan Carey
Ms Mary Duff
Mr Sean Hurley
Professor Mary Leader

Mr John Nisbet
Professor Colm O'Herlihy

In attendance – full meeting

Mr Bill Prasifka (CEO)
Ms Lisa Molloy (Secretary to Council and Head of Corporate Governance)
Ms Jane Horan (Corporate Governance & Council Manager)
Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)
Ms Carine Pressers (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)
Ms Ruth Rock (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)

In attendance – for the relevant parts of the meeting

Mr Philip Brady (Acting Director of Professional Development and Practice)
Ms Wendy Kennedy (Director of Corporate Services)
Ms Úna O'Rourke (Head of Education, Training and Professionalism)
Ms Jantze Cotter (Head of Professional Competence)
Mr John Sidebottom (Head of Inquiries, Health and Monitoring)
Ms Deirdre Foley (Acting Head of Finance)
Ms Barbara O'Neill (Acting Head of Communications)

A private session was taken prior to the commencement of the Council meeting. Following completion of this session, the Council meeting formally commenced.

The President requested a minutes silence as a mark of respect to both Mr Jim McDermott, Head of ICT and Professor Arthur Tanner, past Council member and member of ETPDC, QMSC, E&T Assessor Panel, RCPC & PPC, recently deceased. The President advised Council that he will write to both families offering condolences on behalf of Council.

CEO's Report

The CEO offered his condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Jim Mc Dermott. He advised Council that a series of events in memory of Jim are being organised by the staff via the Wellbeing Group.

The CEO advised Council that the 2017 Business Plan and Budget will be submitted to the Department of Health in February.

Council noted the 2016 online metrics, the CEO outlined that although the introduction of social media was relatively new there had been significant uptake particularly in relation to Twitter and LinkedIn.

Council was updated in relation to current recruitment and the Workforce Plan.

Council was advised that the sale of Lynn House had completed in December 2016.

The CEO advised Council that a Record Management Audit is currently underway. This work will mitigate against risks associated with Information Governance, Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation and provide a platform to achieve ISO accreditation in this area.

The CEO advised Council that the Finance Team are currently working on the compilation of the 2016 Financial Statements.

Council noted that the Your Training Counts Survey continues to be an important project. The CEO informed Council that the President and the Executive had met with the consultative body of trainees and young doctors and would continue working with the RCPI. He advised that the group continue to be supportive and the information gathered over the three year period has indicated a small upward trend.

Council noted that the initial data from the Workforce Intelligence Report suggest that a number of International medical school graduates retaining registration in Ireland has broken the 40% mark. The CEO advised that Council needs to maintain a presence in this area to monitor and provide feedback.

The CEO provided an update in relation to the first time applications for registration which continues on a downward trend particularly for Category 4 doctors (non-EU doctors). He outlined the challenges to maintain momentum due to Garda Vetting and Professional Indemnity and advised that this trend will continue to be monitored.

The CEO advised that a meeting had taken place with the Saolta Hospital Group in preparation for their first regional visit. The Hospital Group has been advised that the focus will be on looking at any training requirements for doctors to improve patient care.

Council noted the regulatory activities and was updated in relation to the Fitness to Practise Case Management.

Council noted that there had been recent article by Professor Corbally that appeared in the Irish Medical News.

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.

Expression of Interest for NMBI for Fitness to Practice Committee

Council noted the expressions of interest for Council members joining the Fitness to Practise Committee of the Nursing and Midwifery Board.

Report of the Working Group to consider Judge Harding Clarke's report on Symphysiotomy

Council noted the Group's recommendation that no further action be taken against any medical practitioner.

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

The Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held on 12th January, 2017 was presented to Council.

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 was updated in relation to the progress of future work by the Safe Start project.

Council approved the report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

The report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee meeting held on 24th January, 2017 was presented to Council.

Council noted that the Committee had considered a number of options regarding the commencement of regional accreditation of undergraduate medical education, intern and postgraduate sites of all places with specialist training posts.

Council further noted the Committee's recommendation that it should concentrate on priority sites initially which would make the most efficient use of its very limited resources. This would be a temporary solution as all sites would have to be inspected to comply with the Council's obligations under section 88(4)(e) of the Act.

The report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee was approved by Council.

Nominations & Development Committee (NDC)

The report of the Nominations & Development Committee meeting held on 25th January, 2017 was presented to Council.

Council noted the Committee's recommendation for Dr Jenkins, Chair of the Strategy and Policy Sub-Committee to attend the INMED Conference at the end of February.

Council noted that the recruitment for membership of the Medical Ionising Radiation Committee is underway.

Council noted the draft Terms of Reference for the Review of the Domains Working Group

Council noted that following the success of the approach taken last year in which guest speakers and members of the Management team were invited to give presentations to Council, the President would continue this approach for 2017.

Council approved the report of the Nominations & Development Committee.

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The Report of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee meeting held on 27th January, 2017 was presented to Council.

Council noted that a series of vignettes have been developed aiming to assist the medical profession in interpreting the Ethical Guide. Council was advised that the Committee is working on a vignette regarding publication of medical information and will be published in due course.

Council was advised that a list is being developed into a concise 'advisory' for doctors under each of the 3 Pillars of Professionalism, some of which relate to probity and dishonesty. Council noted that consultation with Council's legal advisors and professional indemnifiers before finalising and publishing the advisory would take place.

Council noted that the Executive will undertake research to identify available educational tools to support the Guide.

Council noted that the Committee is reviewing the Council's 2012 publication exploring doctors' relationships with industry, as the 2012 booklet is already part of guide as referenced. It was also noted that consultation with key stakeholders, such as IPHA, IMDA and the PSI, has already taken place and the e Committee will consider this feedback at its next meeting and decide if the publication requires updating.

Council noted that the new Working Group to examine the relationship between the 8 Domains of Good Professional Practice and the 3 Pillars of Professionalism has been set up.

Council noted that the Intensive Care Society of Ireland is currently consulting on proposed revised guidelines for non-heart beating organ donation in adults. Council was advised that enquiries are currently being made with the ICSI a view to providing a submission.

Council noted the Vice-President's had been interviewed by "Woman's Way" magazine had had used the opportunity to promote the new Booklet for Patients.

The report of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee was approved by Council.

Health Committee (HC)

The report of the Health Committee meeting held on 26th January, 2017 was presented to Council.

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

Council noted the Committee's recommendation to release one practitioner from the support of the Committee in light of the recent view session and positive medical reports.

Council noted the number of review sessions conducted by the various teams.

Council noted that that arising from the review session report and medical reports received one of the practitioners has now been released from their undertaking not to engage in nightshifts, however, a further undertaking has been sought limiting the number of nightshifts undertaken.

Council noted that positive health reports were received and reviewed and that review sessions are currently scheduled.

Council approved the report of the Health Committee.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

The report of the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 25th January, 2017 was presented to Council.

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

Council noted that correspondence and documentary evidence of compliance had been received, where appropriate, from each of those other practitioners currently 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 the Committee are currently reviewing the bank of conditions previously drafted to assist the Fitness to Practise Committee and Medical Council when imposing conditions, to ensure that the conditions being used are workable and can be properly monitored.

Council approved the report of the Monitoring Committee.

Media Coverage Log covering period: December 2016 – January 2017

This Item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th March, 2017 at 12:30 hrs and Thursday 30th March, 2017 at 08:30 hrs.