



**Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council**

FINAL REPORT OF ACCREDITATION VISIT

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK GRADUATE ENTRY PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 9TH APRIL 2013

Medical Council Team

Dr John McAdoo (Medical Council Member and Chair of Monitoring Team)
Professor Alan Johnson (External Assessor)

Executive

Ms Karen Willis (Senior Executive Officer, Education and Training)

Statement with regard to the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003

The Medical Council currently makes information routinely available to the public in relation to its functions and activities and, in line with that practice, a summary of this report will be available on the Council's website, www.medicalcouncil.ie in due course.

The Freedom of Information Act is designed to allow public access to information held by public bodies which is not routinely available through other sources and access to this document may be sought in accordance with that Act. The Medical Council complies fully with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. It should be noted that access to information under the Freedom of Information Act is subject to certain exemptions and one or more of those exemptions may apply in relation to some or all of this report.

A. DECISION OF MEDICAL COUNCIL

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL'S DECISION IS THAT:

- 1. THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICAL SCHOOL PROGRAMME SHOULD BE APPROVED UNDER THE TERMS OF SECTION 88(2)(a)(i)(I) OF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2007. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS MADE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL TEAM'S FINDING THAT THE PROGRAMME ADHERES TO THE RULES, CRITERIA, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS APPROVED BY COUNCIL, AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 88(2)(a) AND 88(2)(d) OF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2007.**

THIS APPROVAL SHOULD BE FOR AN INITIAL PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL BY COUNCIL.

- 2. THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK SHOULD BE APPROVED UNDER SECTION 88(2)(a)(i)(II) OF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2007 AS THE BODY WHICH MAY DELIVER THAT PROGRAMME. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS MADE ON THE GROUNDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK'S ONGOING COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES, CRITERIA, GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 88(2)(a)(i)(II) AND 88(2)(e) OF THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS ACT 2007.**

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL RECOMMEND THE REMOVAL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITION:

'RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF THE UNSATISFACTORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING FACILITIES AT THE MID-WESTERN REGIONAL HOSPITAL, DOORADOYLE (MWRH DOORADOYLE) MUST BE ACHIEVED. AN INTERIM SOLUTION THAT IS DEEMED TO BE SATISFACTORY BY COUNCIL, AND WHICH WILL ACCOMMODATE THE PLANNED INCREASE IN STUDENT NUMBERS, MUST BE FULLY OPERATIONAL BY THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 2013. BUILDING OF THE LONGER-TERM SOLUTION - NAMELY THE CLINICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE (CERC) - MUST BE COMMENCED BY JUNE 2014. THE INTERIM SOLUTION MUST CONTINUE TO BE SATISFACTORY UNTIL THE CERC CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED.'

The Medical Council will continue to monitor, through regular updates, the implementation of the long-term solution, namely the Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC), due to be commenced by June 2014. The Medical Council should undertake a re-accreditation visit to the UL Graduate Entry Programme in 2016, to assess the programme's continuing compliance with the Medical Council's criteria, guidelines and standards. In the meantime, an Annual Return will be sought from UL in line with Council's agreed processes, and a monitoring visit may be undertaken if deemed necessary.

B. PREFACE

1. Context of the visit

The University of Limerick has established a four year graduate entry medical school programme leading to the award of a degree of BM BS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery). It is at undergraduate (basic in the terminology of the World Federation of Medical Education) level with an exclusively graduate entry.

In April 2012, Council approved the UL Programme and UL with one condition, namely;

'Resolution of the issue of the unsatisfactory education and training facilities at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle (MWRH Dooradoyle) must be achieved. An interim solution that is deemed to be satisfactory by Council, and which will accommodate the planned increase in student numbers, must be fully operational by the beginning of January 2013. Building of the longer-term solution - namely the Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC) - must be commenced by June 2014. The interim solution must continue to be satisfactory until the CERC construction is completed.'

The visit in April 2013 was intended to assess the extent to which the condition could be amended or removed. This is the focus of this report.

2. The Team

The Medical Council Accreditation Team is listed on the title page of this Report. The Council particularly appreciates the contribution of external assessor Professor Alan Johnson, who brought additional expertise in quality assurance of medical education to the accreditation process.

The Medical Council also thanks the University of Limerick Team, led by Professor Mike Larvin, Head of Medical School, for their co-operation and hospitality.

3. Schedule

The visit included a presentation (by Professor Larvin); and an in-depth discussion between the Medical Council Accreditation Team and representatives of the University. An inspection of the education and training facilities at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle, was undertaken. The Team also welcomed the opportunity to visit the new medical school building at the University of Limerick campus.

C. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE BY UL IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONDITION IMPOSED BY COUNCIL IN APRIL 2012

Condition – Resolution of the issue of the unsatisfactory education and training facilities at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle (MWRH Dooradoyle)

The Medical Council note that the condition attached to UL's approval in 2012 – namely;

'Resolution of the issue of the unsatisfactory education and training facilities at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle (MWRH Dooradoyle) must be achieved. An interim solution that is deemed to be satisfactory by Council, and which will accommodate the planned increase in student numbers, must be fully operational by the beginning of January 2013. Building of the longer-term solution - namely the Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC) - must be commenced by June 2014. The interim solution must continue to be satisfactory until the CERC construction is completed.'

has been met, and the Medical Council therefore recommend that the condition be removed.

The Team inspected the education and training facilities at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital, Dooradoyle and are satisfied that the interim solution is acceptable, fully operational and greatly assists in accommodating the increasing student numbers.

The Medical Council will continue to monitor, through regular updates, the implementation of the long-term solution, namely the Clinical Education and Research Centre (CERC), due to be commenced by June 2014.

The Medical Council should undertake a re-accreditation visit to the UL Graduate Entry Programme in 2016, to assess the programme's continuing compliance with the Medical Council's criteria, guidelines and standards. In the meantime, an Annual Return will be sought from UL in line with Council's agreed processes, and a monitoring visit may be undertaken if deemed necessary.

The Team also had the opportunity to visit the new Medical School Building at the University of Limerick campus and wish to congratulate UL on the new facility which is 'state of the art' and which greatly enhances the experience for both students and staff.

The Team wish to commend University of Limerick on the progress they have made in the development and delivery of their programme and wish to mention the dedication and enthusiasm of staff which has been evident to Council during all of their accreditation and monitoring visits.

End of report