Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Council Governance Meeting – Edited Minutes

Date	25 June 2025
Time	9.00 a.m.
Location	In person - Kingram House, Dublin 2
Meeting number	590th meeting of the Medical Council - Meeting No 27 of 2025
Members present	Dr Suzanne Crowe (President) Ms Teresa Bulfin Ms Marie Culliton Dr Mary Davoren (Vice President) Mr Ian Drennan Mr Paul Harkin Mr John Gleeson Prof Richard Greene Ms Jill Long Mr Louise Kavanagh McBride Dr Orla Muldoon Prof Deirdre Murphy Mr Martin O'Halloran Prof Desmond O'Neill Dr Margaret O'Riordan Prof Mary O'Sullivan Mr Jim O'Sullivan Prof Ronan O'Connell Prof Ronan Quirke Prof Edna Roche Ms Sinead Corcoran Mr Nauman Nabi Dr Liqa Ur Rehman
Apologies	None
In attendance for the meeting - In Person	Ms Maria O'Kane (CEO) Ms Gail McAuley (Head of Corporate Affairs and Secretary to Council) Ms Faye Mangan (Council Governance Manager)
In attendance for relevant sections of the meeting	Executive Leadership Team: • Roseanne Fox (Executive Director of Finance, IT & Digital Transformation) • Mr Ciaran Buggle (Head of Complaints and Investigation and Fitness to Practise) • Ms Jantze Cotter (Executive Director of Regulatory Policy & Standards) • Mr Paul Byrne (Executive Director, Regulation, Operations & Support Services) • Mr Alan Gallager (Head of Communications & Stakeholder Engagement) Ms Fiona Redmond (Chief Risk Officer, Head of Risk & Compliance) Ms Sarah Molumby (Head of Registration) Ms Aoife Fitzsimons (Head of Regulatory Standards) Ms Chloe Ryder (Regulatory Standards Manager) Ms Meaghan Ni Raghlaigh (Project Executive) Mr William Kennedy (Head of Legislative Affairs)

Note – all references to 'the Act' shall be construed as references to the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 unless otherwise stated.

1.	**Private Session**	
	Council held a private session. At the end of the private session the CEO and Mr Ciaran Buggle joined the meeting.	
2.	**Discussion on Council succession planning**	
	Ms McAuley, Ms Mangan, Ms Redmond, and the Executive Leadership Team joined the meeting. The President welcomed Professor Desmond O'Neill and Ms Louise Kavanagh McBride to the Council, as its new members. The President issued a reminder to Council members about the importance conflict of interest management, consensus decision making, confidentiality and the role of Council members. Ms McAuley presented the paper on succession planning contained in the meeting pack. Council was advised on the number vacancies arising in May 2026, the impacts on Chairperson and membership positions across its committees. Observations were made on implementing Vice Chairpersons across Committees and the capacity of members to take on additional workload with the existing time commitment required. Council held a discussion on succession planning and recommended that the terms of office for Committee Chairpersons could also be explored for feasibility of two shorter terms, for example, 2-3 years, with an expression of interest process still in place after the first term. It was noted that any possible new pathway, should still enable incoming new members to express interest for Chairperson roles, at a stage, when they are settled into a new role on Council. It was also suggested that existing Council members reflect and consider if they wish to be put forward for a second term in May 2026.	
3.	**Minutes from the Governance Meeting – 2 April 2025**	
	Council reviewed the minutes for 2 April 2025, contained in the meeting brief and requested a minor edit to attendance. An action was raised for the consensus decision making paper to be communicated to Committees of Council.	
	Council approved the minutes for the 577th Council meeting on 2 April 2025 and approved their publication on the Medical Council website.	**Decision**
4.	**Matters arising – Action List**	
	The President presented the action list to Council which is a live document that is being implemented to keep track of requests arising at Council meetings. It was clarified that any completed actions remain on the action list, until Council has seen that they are marked as complete and are removed following the meeting.	

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5.	**Presidents Report**	
	Council noted the Presidents attendance at various engagements, which highlighted a very productive period.	
6.	**Audit Risk Committee (ARC) Report**	
	Council considered the Audit and Risk report in the meeting brief, presented by Mr Drennan. Council was given an overview of the items arising from the ARC meeting for decision and the matters for noting. Following consideration of the internal audit report pertaining to an information governance review by Crowley's, Council considered the findings and the actions which will be taken to address matters. Council also considered the revised terms of reference for the ARC to transfer certain matters to the newly established Finance Advisory Committee.	
	Council approved the following items: - **Council approved the internal audit report relating to information governance.** - **Council approved the revised Audit and Risk Committee revised terms of reference.**	**Decision**
7.	**Financial Statements 2024**	
	Council considered the Financial Statements in respect of the year ended 31 December 2024. Council sought clarification on employee salary breakdowns and recruitment consultancy which were clarified by Ms Fox. Council noted that the ARC had fully considered the financial statements for 2024 and that the C&AG was prepared to sign off following their due diligence. It was requested that the terms of appointment for members be corrected for inaccuracies and to include the Registration Adjudication Committee in the list of Council Committees. The President advised Council that expressions of interest would be sought for membership to the Audit and Risk Committee to fill required vacancies.	
	Council approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 and authorized the President and Chief Executive Officer respectively to sign the Financial Statements on Council's behalf.	**Decision**
8.	**Risk Report**	
	Ms Redmond, Chief Risk Officer presented on the Risk Reports, contained in the meeting brief. Council was updated on new, open, and closed risks, with a focus on red and amber risks reflecting the period 26 March 2025 to 30 May 2025. Council was advised on the overall reduction of risks with trends and rationale for risks being closed. A detailed discussion was held on risk with further consideration requested for:	

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	• Enhancing the reporting on risks and the associated activities • Review of wording of certain risks with a view to condensing wording and merging risks were possible.	
	Council approved the Q2 2025 risk report, its contents and the outlined actions and controls to address the risks.	**Decision**
9.	**CEO Report**	
	Mr Buggle, previous interim CEO presented the CEO update. Council was updated on the progress over the second quarter across the organisation. It was requested that project updates in the CEO report also include timeframes against them.	
10.	**Unregistered Practice Policy**	
	Council considered the Unregistered Practice Policy paper, contained in the meeting brief, presented by Ms Cotter. Council was updated on the approach to providing a structured framework for unregistered medical practice. Council noted the policy has been reviewed by the Registration and Continuing Practise Committee. Council held a discussion during which clarification was given by the Executive on several observations. It was requested that a check be carried out to ensure no one has passed away before placing names on Medical Council website for doctors who had not paid fees.	
	Council approved the draft Unregistered Practice Policy and the implementation by the Executive of the operational recommendations contained withing he paper.	**Decision**
11.	**Guidelines to support the interpretation and implementation of medical education and training standards.**	
	Due to technical issues, this matter was deferred to follow item 15. *Ms Fitzsimons joined the meeting. *[redacted] and [redacted], Cardiff University joined the Council meeting virtually. Ms Fitzsimons, [redacted] and [redacted] presented the Guidelines to support the interpretation and implementation of medical education and training standards, contained in the meeting brief. Council understood that this was the final stage of the review of standards project for medical education and training and that the guidelines provided practical advice and direction on the implementation or assessment of the standards and criteria.	

	Council was provided with an overview of the project plan, research undertaken and detailed analysis carried out, review of feedback, editing process and lessons learned. Council members made observations and raised questions on certain aspects of the guidelines. Following clarifications, [redacted] and [redacted] left the meeting.	
	Council approved the final draft guidelines to support the interpretation and implementation of the new medical education and training standards.	**Decision**
	*Ms Fitzsimons left the meeting.	
12.	**Telemedicine guidance for doctors and the public**	
	This item was taken prior to item 11. Ms Ryder presented the telemedicine guidance for doctors and the public, contained in the meeting brief. Council recommended the guidance be modified to: · Be more specific under the 'Can I prescribe via telemedicine?' section particularly in relation to prescribing controlled drugs · Provide a link to the joint Medical Council and Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland guidance on the safe prescribing and dispensing of controlled drugs. · Ensure that the guidance for the Public is reviewed by NALA. Following these changes, the policy can return to Council for decision by circulation of papers.	
13.	**Specialty Recognition Application by Interventional Radiology**	
	*Ms Mary O'Sullivan left the meeting or this item. *Ms Trevaskis joined the meeting. Dr Jerome Coffey (Dean, Faculty of Radiology, RCSI) and Prof Colin Cantwell (Faculty of Radiology, RCSI), Prof Michael Lee (representing the office of the CCO, and is National Clinical Lead Interventional Radiology Program) joined the meeting. Ms Trevaskis introduced an application by the Faculty of Radiology, RCSI and provided Council with an overview of the process, and the background and chronology of the application. Further to this Professor Edna Roche presented to Council on the previous assessment and the decision of the Education and Training Committee in 2022 to include background and rational for this item being before Council today. Council was being requested to decide if the text of the assessment teams draft report, be approved as final. And if the application for speciality recognition for interventional radiology should be rejected or proceed to stage two of the speciality recognition process. Prof Jerome Coffey, Prof Colin Cantwell and Prof Michael Lee proceeded to provide presentations to Council to support its request for recognition of interventional radiology.	

	Council members had the opportunity to seek clarifications following presentations. Following clarification sought by Council members, Prof Jerome Coffey, Prof Colin Cantwell, Prof Michael Lee, Professor Edna Roche and Ms Trevaskis left the meeting. Council received extensive oral and written submissions in respect of the proposed progression to Stage 2 of the Specialty Recognition process of the application in respect of Interventional Radiology. Council also received the detailed report and recommendation of the Education & Training Committee which had been completed prior to these most recent submissions by the Faculty of Radiology. Following an in-depth discussion, Council decided it was not presented with sufficient evidence to overturn the recommendation of the Education & Training Committee. The outcome of the specialty recognition application and the reasons for Council's decision will be outlined in the Letter to the Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI.	
	Council decided it was not presented with sufficient evidence to overturn the recommendation of the Education & Training Committee for speciality recognition for interventional radiology by the Faculty of Radiology, RCSI. Therefore, the application will not proceed to stage two of the speciality recognition process.	**Decision**
14.	**S60 Delegations**	
	*Mr Kennedy joined the meeting for this item. Mr Kennedy presented the paper, Section 60 delegations, contained in the meeting brief and provided an additional Power Point presentation. Council was provided with an overview of the proposal to assign the Council's functions and responsibilities under S55, 57(6) and 60 to a section 20 Committee of Council. Council was presented with a legal advice on the matter, associated risks and statistics in relation to the volume of matters before it in 2024 /2025. A broad discussion was held on the composition of a Section 60 Committee and its size. It was confirmed, following clarification, that a medical majority would be a requirement. Following discussion, it was agreed that the proposals would be brought back to Council and would include the composition of the committee, Council members participation and the governance, accountability and reporting arrangements.	
	Council decided in principle to support the further detailed research to assign the Council's functions and responsibilities under S55, 57(6) and 60 to a section 20 Committee of Council.	**Decision**
15.	**Carehub**	
	Mr Byrne presented the paper on CareHub as contained in the meeting brief circulated in advance of the meeting. Council noted the outlined benefits and the value that the service provides within its budget. Council understood that the service was being requested to be made permanent with a tender process to take place within 2024 / 2025 expenditure projections.	

	It was clarified that medical students have their own support service through universities and should not be referred to in the stakeholder list within the tender specification.	
	Council approved the transition of CAREhub from a time-limited pilot to a permanent service commencing in Q4 2025 for a period of one year.	**Decision**
16.	**Proposed Amendment to Terms of Reference for the Education and Training Committee**	
	*Ms Chappat joined the meeting. Ms Chappat presented the proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Education and Training Committee, contained in the meeting brief.	
	Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Education and Training Committee, contained in the meeting brief.	**Decision**
	*Ms Chappat left the meeting.	
17.	**Investment and bank mandate**	
	Ms Fox presented the revised bank and investment mandate dated 25 June 2025, contained in the meeting brief. The listed signatories in the Council's Bank and Investment mandate required an amendment to reflect movement in personnel over the last 12 months. Ms Fox noted that the Head of Finance would also be added to the updated mandate to ensure cover for operational matters.	
	Council approved the revised Bank and Investment mandate dated 25 June 2025.	**Decision**
18.	**Workforce Intelligence Report**	
	Council noted the Workforce Intelligence Report, contained in the meeting brief.	
19.	**Data strategy and digital strategy**	
	Ms Fox presented the data strategy and digital strategy paper, contained in the meeting brief.	
	Council approved proceeding with the current scope and plan outlined in the supporting papers for the development of both the data and digital strategy.	**Decision**
20.	**Update on registration timelines**	
	Ms Molumby joined the meeting. Mr Byrne presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council on Registration timelines. This provided an update on the volume of new applications in 2025, overall processing times, service demand and constraints, and process improvements which are in progress. Council was also updated on a triaging team that was in place and the reassignment of staff to support the streamlining of process.	

	A discussion was held on the complexity of registration routes, required systems modifications, projections and impacts of staff movement on business plan. It was requested that rejected applications be recorded in the data to Council. *Orla Muldoon, Margaret O'Sullivan, Richard Greene, Margaret O'Riordan, Jill Long and Liqa Ur Rehman, Mary Davoren left the meeting. It was requested that the Mazars Financial report be shared with new members appointed to Council.	
21	**Letter from Irish Healthcare Workers for Palestine**	
	This item was considered following item 12. Council considered the Letter from Irish Healthcare Workers for Palestine, presented by the President. The letter requested the Medical Council to cease qualification recognition for an Israeli University.	
	Council agreed that a response would issue to Irish Healthcare Workers for Palestine using the standard communications approach outlined by Mr Gallagher, Head of Communications.	**Decision**
22	**Update on professional competence schemes**	
	Mr Kennedy provided a brief update to Council on the Preliminary Proceedings Committee referring complaints to professional competence schemes, in light of new legislative amendments. *Mr Kennedy left the meeting.	
23	**Briefing Paper on HSE Health Regions**	
	Council noted the Briefing Paper on HSE Health Regions, contained in its meeting pack.	
24	**Climate Action Strategy**	
	This item was taken before item 15. Council noted the Climate Action Strategy report, contained in its meeting pack.	
25	**Finance Advisory Committee Report**	
	Council considered the Finance Advisory Committee reports contained in the meeting brief which covered an update on the matters considered by the Committee to include, investment advice, procurement policy, management accounts and flex budget. Ms Fox presented the flex budget summary which provided an overview of the flexed income and expenditure for the remainder of 2025, within the overall budget which had been previously approved by Council in January.	
	Council approved the investment recommendation in relation to the reallocation of funds within the Council's investment portfolio.	**Decision**
	Council approved the flex budget for the remainder of 2025.	**Decision**

26	**Registration & Continuing Practice Committee Report**	
	Council noted the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee Report, contained in its meeting pack.	
27	**Registration Adjudication Committee Report**	
	Council noted the Registration Adjudication Committee Report, contained in its meeting pack.	
28	**ETC Report to Council from January 2025**	
	Council noted the Education and Training Committee Report, contained in its meeting pack.	
25	**AOB**	
	There were no further matters.	
26	**Close of Governance meeting**	
	The in-person meeting concluded at approximately 17.20. Council noted the next Regulatory Council meeting was 27 June 2025 and the next Governance meeting on 1 October 2025.	