Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Council Governance Meeting – Minutes

Date	1 October 2025	
Time	9.00 a.m.	
Location	In person - Kingram House, Dublin 2	
Meeting number	590th meeting of the Medical Council - Meeting No 46 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 Dr Orla Muldoon Prof Deirdre Murphy Prof Desmond O'Neill Dr Margaret O'Riordan	Mr Jim O'Sullivan Prof Ronan O'Connell Prof Edna Roche Ms Sinead Corcoran Mr Nauman Nabi Dr Liqa Ur Rehman
Apologies	Mr Louise Kavanagh McBride Mr Martin O'Halloran Prof Mary O'Sullivan Mr O'connell Quirke	
In attendance for the meeting - In Person	Dr 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: • Mr Colm O'Leary (Executive Director of Strategy and Business Services) • Mr Ciaran Buggle (Executive Director, 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 Meaghan Ni Raghlaigh, Regulatory Policy Executive Mr William Kennedy (Head of Legislative Affairs) Ms Patricia Ryan (Head of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics) Mr John McBride (Head of IT and Digital Transformation) Ms Ciara McMorrow (Head of Facilities)	

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 joined the meeting. Council was updated on a matter during its private session relating to Ethics Committee minutes. This was agreed to be placed on the agenda for the Governance meeting on 10 December 2025.	
2.	**Conflict of interest check**	
	There were no conflicts declared.	
3.	**Minutes from the Governance Meeting – 29 June 2025**	
	Ms McAuley, Ms Mangan, Ms Redmond, and the Executive Leadership Team joined the meeting. Council reviewed the minutes for 29 June 2025, contained in the meeting brief and requested a minor edit.	
	Council approved the minutes for the 590th Council meeting on 29 June 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. A minor edit was requested to the cover sheet.	
5.	**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.	
5.1	**Internal Audit Tender**	
	Following Council discussion of the internal audit tender, this matter was deferred for decision pending clarification on the maximum spend under the contract for the Provision of Internal Audit Services. Council agreed that following clarification, the matter could proceed by circulation of papers for decision.	
6.	**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, reflecting the period 25 June to 25 September 2025.	

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	Council was given an in-depth presentation with a focus on red risks. Council discussed the risks and raised key questions with regards to some of the ratings.	
	Council approved the Q3 2025 risk report, its contents and the outlined actions and controls to address the risks.	**Decision**
7.	**CEO Report**	
	Dr. Maria O'Kane, CEO presented the CEO update. Council was updated on the progress over the second quarter across the organisation. Council requested further briefing on the legislative changes that commenced in May 2025 and their practical implementation.	
8.	**Position statement on AI use in clinical decision making**	
	*Ms Ni Raghlaigh, joined the meeting. Council considered Position statement on AI use in clinical decision making, contained in the meeting brief, presented by Ms Jantze Cotter. Council noted that one of the projects identified in the 2025 Business Plan was the development of a background paper to inform the preparation of guidance to the profession on the use of AI in health care. Council held a detailed discussion on the paper which provided an overview of the current AI landscape, drawing on national and EU policy and law, as well as international practice, associated opportunities and risks. Council made several recommendations for inclusion in the position statement, to include a request to enhance the wording regarding transparency to reflect wording used by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Council agreed that following these additions, the paper could be re-circulated for approval by circulation of papers. *Ms Ni Raghlaigh, left the meeting.	
9.	**S.60 Delegations – Subject to Legal Privilege**	
	*Mr Kennedy joined the meeting. Mr Buggle and Mr Kennedy presented the papers, contained in the meeting brief to Council to include 1. 20250930 S.60 Delegation Report to Council 2. 20250930 Ctee_Draft Terms of Reference CB 3. 20250930 Draft Delegation 4. September 29, 2025 Legal Advices Received from Patrick Leonard SC 5. September 20, 2024 Legal Advices Received from Patrick Leonard SC Following consideration of the documentation and a detailed discussion Council approved the establishment of the Section 60 Committee.	

	Council requested that a review report is brought back to Council by end of March 2026 and noted that continued reporting will every 6 months.	
	Council decided pursuant to section 20 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 as amended (the "Act"), to establish a Section 60 Committee of Council, as set out in the Delegations/Assignment of the Medical Council Motion number 1 of 2025 (attached), to take effect from 1 October 2025.	**Decision**
	*Mr Kennedy left the meeting.	
10.	**Approval of Elections 2025/2026**	
	Mr Colm O'Leary presented the Approval of Elections plan paper contained in the meeting brief. Council noted the timeline set out for the elections process, the number of vacancies to be filled on Council in 2026. It was noted that the Communications Team will create a range of communications highlighting the forthcoming elections across the website, newsletter and social media channels.	
	Council approved the Elections Plan for 2025/2026.	**Decision**
	Mr O'Leary provided an update regarding an ongoing Judicial Review matter that is due to be heard in 2026. Leo Kearns, the former CEO of the Medical Council, previously swore the affidavits in this matter and he was made aware that he could be called as a witness when the matter was before the courts. Mr O' Leary sought Council's approval for Leo Kearns to act as witness on behalf of the Medical Council in this matter.	
	Council approved Leo Kearns to be a witness on behalf of the Medical Council in this matter.	**Decision**
11.	**Calendar of meetings 2026**	
	Council considered its calendar of scheduled meetings for 2026. It was requested that the dates for the Health Committee and Registration Adjudication Committee be included when available. Council noted that its governance meeting would be combined on 10 December 2025 and that there is no requirement for the additional date of the 11 December.	
	Council approved the calendar of meetings for 2026	**Decision**
12.	**Procurement paper for data and digital strategy**	
	*Mr McBride joined the meeting	

	*Professor O'Connell declared a conflict of interest with this item and left the meeting for this item. Mr McBride presented the paper on procurement for a data and digital strategy. Council was provided with an overview of the services required, Office of Government Procurement framework used, procurement process, contract length, costs and project timelines. Following an update on the procurement exercise, Council was requested to approve award of the contract for the provision of consultancy services to support the development of digital & data strategies to Ernst & Young who had been selected as the winning vendor.	
	Council approved the award of the contract for the provision of consultancy services to support the development of digital & data strategies to Ernst & Young for an initial term of twenty-four months, with the option to extend the term of the contract for a further twelve (12) months with a maximum of two (2) such extensions. In-line with the 2025 approved budget for this engagement.	**Decision**
13.	**Finance Advisory Committee Reports**	
	*Professor O'Connell rejoined the meeting. Ms Corcoran presented the Finance Advisory Committee Report, contained in the meeting brief. Council noted that the report contained two items for decision.	
13.1	**Investment portfolio strategy**	
	Ms Corcoran, Chairperson of the Finance Advisory Committee presented the proposed changes to the Medical Council's proposed investment strategy. Council noted that the Finance Advisory Committee had been working on a proposed investment portfolio strategy for the Medical Council and had considered recommended advice from Davy. Council considered the recommended revised Investment Strategy based on the Finance Advisory Committee and Davy's recommendation and were provided with a list of the proposed revisions.	
	Council approved the revised Investment Strategy as recommended by the Finance Advisory Committee and Davy's.	**Decision**
13.2	**Medical Council Investment Policy**	
	Ms Corcoran presented the updated Medical Council Investment and Reserves Policy, 2025, contained in the meeting brief.	
	Council approved the Medical Council Investment and Reserves Policy 2025.	**Decision**
14.	**Fitness to Practise Committee Report**	
	Mr Harkin, Chairperson of the Fitness to Practice Committee, presented the Fitness to Practise Committee Report to Council, contained in the meeting brief. This report summarised the Fitness to Practise Committee's activity between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024.	

	Council held a detailed discussion on Fitness to Practise matters and data trends.	
15.	**Digital and Data strategies Project – Progress update**	
	*Mr McBride and Ms Ryan joined the meeting. Mr McBride presented a PowerPoint presentation on the data strategy and digital strategy project which provided context for the project, project governance to include structure and reporting and project progress. *Mr McBride and Ms Ryan left the meeting.	
16.	**Update on business plan**	
	Mr O'Leary provided the update on the Business Plan for 2025, contained in the meeting brief. Council noted the details of the approval process for the 2025 Business Plan and the structural changes that were made to the plan following feedback and observations received from the Department of Health. The approved Business Plan was included. Council recommended that the learnings from this business planning process be implemented in future business planning process. Council noted that progress was underway for the 2026 Business Plan.	
17.	**Presidents Report**	
	Council noted the Presidents attendance at various engagements, which highlighted a very productive period.	
18.	**Education and Training Committee Report to Council from July 2025**	
	Council noted the Education and Training Committee report for July 2025.	
19.	**Registration and Continuing Practice Committee Report**	
	Council noted the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee report. It was noted that the Committee will be operating with a new quorum and increasing its membership following Council's approval of its updated terms of reference via circulation of papers.	
20.	**Climate Action Sustainability**	
	*Ms Ciara McMorrow joined the meeting. Council noted the quarterly Climate Action Strategy report, contained in its meeting pack and was updated on progress against the climate action plan. *Ms Ciara McMorrow left the meeting.	
21.	**AOB**	
	Following a matter raised by a Council member, Council agreed to issue a statement condemning attacks on healthcare workers. Following a Council members query, it was clarified that an election would be required to be held for a new President in June 2026.	

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26	**Close of Governance meeting**	
	The in-person meeting concluded at approximately 14.33. Council noted the next Governance meeting on 10 December 2025.	

Appendix 1

DELEGATIONS/ASSIGNMENT OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL

MOTION NUMBER 1 of 2025

1. Pursuant to section 20 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 as amended (the **"Act"**), the Medical Council (the **"Council")** has the power to establish committees of the Council to perform any functions that, in the opinion of the Council, may be better or more conveniently performed by a committee, and that are assigned by the Council to a committee.

2. The Section 60 Committee ('the s 60 Committee') is established pursuant to section 20 of the Act.

3. In accordance with the power vested in the Council under section 20 of the Act, the Council hereby assigns and/or delegates to the s 60 Committee the functions and the power to consider whether an application to the High Court should be brought by the Council under section 60(1), 1(A), 1(B), 1(C), (4) and (5) (a) & (b) of the Act and the power to deal with related matters.

4. In so delegating/assigning the functions listed in paragraph 3 of this Motion to the s 60 Committee, the Council also assigns the power under section 7(5) of the Act on the s 60 Committee to do anything that appears to it to be requisite, advantageous or incidental to, or to facilitate, the performance of its functions including the making of arrangements with any person to assist the committee in the proper discharge of any of the Council's or committee's (as the case may be) functions.

5. Pursuant to section 20(12) of the Act, the Council hereby dispenses with the necessity for the Council of the Medical Council to confirm the Acts of the s 60 Committee.

6. The Committee shall expressly set out in its terms of reference the functions that are delegated/assigned to it by the Council. The Committee shall regulate its own procedure.

7. This delegation/assignment shall take effect on 1 October 2025 and shall remain in force unless or until it is revoked by the Council.

Signed

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Medical Council

Dr Suzanne Crowe	**Dr Maria O'Kane**
President	**CEO**