Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Council Governance Meeting – Minutes

Date	10 December 2025	
Time	9.30 a.m.	
Location	In person	
Meeting number	624th meeting of the Medical Council - Meeting No 61 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 Ms Jill Long Prof Deirdre Murphy Mr Martin O'Halloran Prof Desmond O'Neill Dr Margaret O'Riordan	Mr Jim O'Sullivan Prof Mary O'Sullivan Prof Edna Roche Ms Sinead Corcoran Mr Nauman Nabi Mr Ronan Quirke
Apologies	Prof Richard Greene Prof Ronan O'Connell Mr Louise Kavanagh McBride Dr Orla Muldoon Dr Liqa Ur Rehman	
In attendance for relevant sections of the meeting	• Dr Maria O'Kane (CEO) • Mr Colm O'Leary (Executive Director of Strategy and Business Services) • Ms Jantze Cotter (Executive Director of Regulatory Policy & Standards) • Mr Paul Byrne (Executive Director, Regulation, Operations & Support Services) • Dr Cyril O'Sullivan (Executive Director, Finance, IT and Digital Transformation) • Ms Gail McAuley (Head of Corporate Affairs and Secretary to Council) • Mr Alan Gallager (Head of Communications & Stakeholder Engagement) • Ms Fiona McVeigh (Head of Regulatory Policy) • Mr William Kennedy (Head of Legislative Affairs) • Ms Patricia Ryan (Head of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics)	

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

1.	**Conflict of interest check**	
	There were no conflicts declared.	
2.	**Minutes from the Governance Meeting – 1 October 2025**	
	Council reviewed the minutes for 1 October 2025, contained in the meeting brief and requested minor edits to include correcting a typographical error regarding date, the inclusion of an action that arose in its private session and specific inclusion of a request made in relation to the AI policy presented. A clarification was noted which set out that Council had decided to adopt the proposal of the CEO in Item 1.1 of the agenda of 1 October 2026 on access to prior minutes by Council members.	
	Council approved the minutes for the 609th Council meeting on 1 October 2025, subject to the edits and approved their publication on the Medical Council website.	**Decision**
3.	**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. Council noted the improvement made to the format.	
4.	**CEO Report**	
	This item was taken before item 2. Dr. Maria O'Kane, CEO presented the CEO update, contained in the meeting brief to Council. Council was updated on the progress over the third quarter across the organisation. Several key matters were verbally highlighted by the CEO to include; • progress across achieving efficiencies in regulatory and operational services • the changes made to Executive leadership functions to support efficiencies in regulatory and business functions • planned governance reviews to identify opportunities for continuous improvement across the organisation • developments in Fitness to Practise and Complaints and Investigations • budget and business plan matters • elections planning • digital and data strategy project update Council noted the update by Mr William Kennedy on the timeline for the implementation of new legislation. Council members commended the positive progress that had been over several areas by the organisation.	

	*Dr Maria O'Kane left the meeting.	
5.	**Practitioners Health Matters Programme 2024 payment**	
	Mr O'Sullivan presented the paper, contained in the meeting brief to Council. Council noted that the CEO/ Executive is currently negotiating a contract for services with Practitioners Health Matters Programme which will be brought to Council for noting in 2026. Council noted the observations made by the Chairperson of the Audit and Risk Committee, that the Committee was willing to recommend the payment for approval in this case subject to the steps that are underway by the Executive to progress a contract for services.	
	Council approved the donation of €25,000 in respect of 2024 to be paid to Practitioners Health Matters Programme (PHMP)	**Decision**
6.	**Business Plan 2026**	
	Council considered the business plan 2026 papers included in its meeting brief. Ms Patricia Ryan presented a high-level overview of the business plan for 2026 which identified: • The structured and collaborative approach across the organization to developing the 2026 business plan • Engagement with the Department of Health • The Business Plan and Operational Plans framework to include a structured KPI framework to support monthly and quarterly reporting Following discussion and observations made by Council members, it was noted that the business plan will be updated in line with feedback from Council and the Department of Health and will be presented back to Council on 28 January 2026 for approval.	
7.	**Section 60 Committee**	
	Council considered the Section 60 terms of reference, presented by Mr William Kennedy. A detailed discussion was held in relation to membership and the proposed mechanics of the Committee.	
	1. Council decided that all current Council members would be on the Section 60 Committee.	**Decision**

	2. Council approved that the terms of office for membership to the Committee will be as per its approved policy. **3. Council approved the terms of reference for the Section 60 Committee subject to the inclusion of text to clarify that all current Council members, are on the Committee.**	
8.	**Ethics Committee Minutes Matter**	
	*All members of the Executive present left the meeting. Council held a private discussion on a matter relating to minutes of the Ethics Committee. Following a detailed discussion and decision by Council, the Executive returned to the meeting. The President notified the Executive of Council's decision.	
	1. Council approved of a recommendation that Council members have access to Committee and Council meeting minutes, past and current. **2. Council decided not to currently reopen the decision made last year on the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics, 9th edition.**	**Decision**
	The in-person governance meeting concluded at approximately 11.00 a.m. Council noted the next Governance meeting on 28 January 2026.	