



**National University of
Ireland, Galway**

**Anatomy Department
Inspection Report**

2019



**Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council**

About the Medical Council

The Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors. It has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors practising in the Republic of Ireland.

The Council has a majority of non-medical members. The 25-member Council consists of 13 non-medical members and 12 medical members. The Council receives no State funding and is funded primarily by doctors' registration fees.

The Medical Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners - the Register of all doctors who are legally permitted to carry out medical work in Ireland. The Council also sets the standards for medical education and training in Ireland. It oversees lifelong learning and skills development throughout doctors' professional careers through its professional competence requirements. It is charged with promoting good medical practice. The Medical Council is also where the public may make a complaint against a doctor.



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Statement with regard to the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018

The Medical Council routinely makes information available to the public in relation to its functions and activities and, in line with that practice, 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.

As a Data Controller, the Medical Council is also subject to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the Data Protection Acts 1988 – 2018. The Medical Council complies with its obligations as a Data Controller under the relevant legislation. Any person on whom the Medical Council holds personal information has certain rights, known as 'Subject Access Rights'. Further information on both Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation is available on our website at: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/FOI-Data-Protection/>

Anatomy responsibilities

Licensing Authority

The Medical Council is the licensing authority for the practise of Anatomy in the State in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832 as outlined in Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act (MPA) 2007:

-The Council—

(a) is, by virtue of this section, authorised to—

- (i) grant a licence to practise Anatomy in the State,
- (ii) appoint inspectors of places in the State where Anatomy is carried on, and
- (iii) be the person to whom such inspectors shall make returns, under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832, and

(b) shall, at the request of the Minister and as soon as is practicable after it receives the request, provide the Minister with such information concerning its functions under the Anatomy Act 1832 as the Minister specifies in the request.

The Inspector of Anatomy

Following the introduction of the 2007 Act the Council appointed Professor Ceri Davies as the Inspector of Anatomy.

The Inspector of Anatomy was appointed by Council to perform the following functions:

- Advise the Council on the granting of licences to practice Anatomy in the State
- Inspect places in the State where Anatomy is practised
- Make returns to Council under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832
- Advise the Council on the information sought by or to be provided to the Minister regarding the Council's functions under the Anatomy Act 1832
- Advise the Council on the teaching of Anatomy by any bodies approved under Section 88 (2) (a) (i) (ii) and/or Section 89 (3) (a) (ii) of the Act.

Inspection Team

At each inspection visit, the Inspector of Anatomy is supported by a non-medical member of the Medical Council (with no background in Anatomy or Pathology to ensure appropriate lay representation), as well as a member of the Medical Council Executive. The Medical Council's Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination provides the framework for the inspections of Anatomy Departments.

Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination

In the absence of up-to-date legislation, the Medical Council published the [Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination](#), in 2015. This Code was designed to help safeguard public confidence in the practice of Anatomy in Ireland and support continuous improvement within the Anatomy Departments whilst awaiting updated legislation in the form of the Human Tissue Act. Specifically, the Code of Practice aims to:

- Support institutions and individuals in the State to engage in best practice that reflects current society, science, medicine, education and ethics norms.
- Enable members of the public to better understand current best practice employed by institutions and individuals in the State that undertake Anatomical Examination, to ensure that trust in these practices is maintained.
- Provide a framework for inspections conducted by the Medical Council, through the Inspector of Anatomy, pursuant to its role under Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, as the licensing authority under the Anatomy Act 1832.

Anatomy Department Inspection Report

National University of Ireland, Galway

License holder: Professor Peter Dockery

Inspection team:

Professor Ceri Davies, Inspector of Anatomy for the Medical Council

Mr John Murray, Medical Council member

Ms Chloe Ryder, Inspection Manager, Medical Council

Date of inspection: 8 February 2019

SECTION 1 – ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

1. LICENSING, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The lead individual holding the licence for Anatomical Examination at National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway (Professor Peter Dockery) has not changed since the 2016 inspection and the required annual returns since that date have been made to the Medical Council.

2. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS

The team met with Professor Dockery and other members of academic, technical and administrative staff. The Department is a cohesive unit and its members understand their responsibilities in relation to their role in Anatomical Examination. All staff are appropriately qualified and trained for their work and NUI Galway has appropriate performance management and development appraisals. A suitable systematic record management system that ensures data protection, confidentiality and has suitable provision for data back-up is in place. Appropriate risk assessments of the practices and processes related to Anatomical Examination are in place. Standard Operating Procedures are held in electronic form and hard copies are available at the point of use. The service level agreement between NUI Galway and their undertakers, Conneely Funeral Directors, continues.

There is a small Pathology Museum comprising less than 450 pots in the Clinical Science Centre at NUI Galway. Each item in the collection is documented and the collection is currently not being added to. It is still not clear whether this falls under the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Anatomy, or indeed anyone else and this will await the introduction of the new Human Tissue Act. The facility comprises a preparation room / store, a technician's office and a small teaching room. Pots are signed out of the store for use in the teaching room and back into the store, by the Pathology Museum technician. The storage of the pots is secure.

SECTION 2 – RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. CONSENT

NUI Galway uses the model consent form published as an appendix to the Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination. This consent form meets all of the recommendations within the Code of Practice. The information booklet for potential donors and their families gives appropriate information for the consent to be fully informed.

2. PREMISES, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The premises, facilities and equipment were inspected from the entrance point of a donor's remains, through the embalming and storage facility, to the dissecting room. The security of the undertaker's entrance is good and although the door to the embalming / body storage facility is adequately locked, but not alarmed, it is checked by campus security patrols. The entrances to the Anatomy Building are subject to NUI Galway Security CCTV surveillance. The embalming facility is fit for purpose and there is one freezer unit as well as cooled storage for 21 cadavers. Cadaveric material is transferred from the embalming / storage facility manually via an external walkway that can be sealed off and is not overlooked. All academic and technical staff have access to keys to the Dissecting Room, which is locked when not in use. Students entering the dissecting room are monitored by scanning their ID cards. The signage in and around the dissecting room is appropriate as are the facilities in the dissecting room. The air handling in the Dissecting Room appeared to be appropriate.

A new Human Biology Building on the NUI Galway Campus houses a purpose designed Human Anatomy teaching facility. Although the Anatomy facility had been largely fitted out at the time of the inspection, teaching had yet to commence in it. Again, the premises, facilities and equipment were inspected from the entrance point of a donor's remains, through the embalming and storage facility, to the dissecting room. There is a screened hearse entrance and mortuary entrance monitored by a security camera. A dedicated body lift with camera monitoring takes donors directly to the embalming suite / body store, which has cooled storage for 28 cadavers and freezers for 4 cadavers. There is a dedicated fume hood for mixing embalming fluids and a down draft embalming table. The teaching area comprises dissection and prosection areas, a histology laboratory and appropriate offices. A tour of the floor area was provided, and the layout has clearly been well designed with health and safety, security and privacy in mind. All external doors are monitored by security cameras that relay images to central campus security. Entrance to the teaching facility is by key card and key card activation is logged remotely by campus security.

3. RECORD KEEPING / TRACEABILITY

Hard copy donation records are stored in a fire-proof cabinet and the consent forms of donors received are scanned into a database for electronic storage. An audit of traceability was successfully conducted by selecting a cadaver and tracing it back to the consent form and other records. Similarly, a prosection was traced back to the cadaver it was derived from and the relevant records. Retained parts are now 'chipped' and identified with a bar scanner as well as by photographic images. Anatomy pots are now traceable to a database by a catalogue number and to an image

database. Historical specimens of unknown provenance, including those in the Montgomery museum collection are numbered and documented in a database. Bones stored in the histology laboratory are audited annually.

4. SENSITIVE DISPOSAL

The donation information booklet provides full information about the options available for disposal of the donors' remains. Remains are either buried in the UniversityPlot, Bohemore, Galway, or the University will pay for transportation to another burial plot or to a crematorium.

5. LOAN / TRANSFER OF CADAVERIC MATERIAL

NUI Galway does not currently loan or transfer any cadaveric material.

Conclusion

Following the inspection of the NUI Galway Anatomy Department 8 February 2019, I recommend that:

1. National University of Ireland, Galway, should continue to be licensed for the practice of Anatomical Examination. This recommendation is made on the grounds that the visiting Medical Council team found that the site is adhering to the standards set out in the Medical Council's Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination.

Continuation of the licence for the National University of Ireland, Galway, is subject to ongoing approval by the Medical Council.



D. C Davies
Inspector of Anatomy

31/8/19



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