

Minutes

The Public session of the 32nd meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland established under the Pharmacy Act 2007 was held at 10.00am on Tuesday 6th December 2011 at An Bord Altranais, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

Present: Mr. P. Fahey (President), Mr. E. Hanly (Vice President), Ms. L. Clarke, Mr. J. Collins, Mr. J. Corr, Ms. M. Doherty, Dr. J. Holohan, Mr. A. Horan, Ms. I. Kelleher, Ms. D. Larkin, Prof. K. McDonald, Ms. M. Ní Longáin, Mr. F. Murphy, Mr. F. Ó'Cuinneagáin, Prof. C. O'Driscoll Mr. K.O'Hourihane Ms. R. Purcell and Mr. N. Stenson.

PSI staff in attendance: Dr. A. McLoughlin (Registrar), Ms. J. Aylward, Mr. J. Bryan, Ms. L. Crimin, Ms. C. Hogg, Ms L. Horgan, Ms. C. McGoldrick, Mr. T. McGuinn, Ms. K. O'Flaherty, Mr. S. O hAodha, Mr. T. Reilly, Dr. C. Stokes.

1. Apologies

Dr. A. Frankish, Dr. M. Barry, Prof. C. O'Boyle.

2. Declaration of Interests

The President referred to item 2 in the Council documentation and reminded Council of their responsibilities in this regard.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacy Act 2007, deals with the necessary disclosure of certain interests by members of the Council and by members of its various committees. Those requirements are also reflected in the Code of Conduct adopted for Council members which also requires that they "be honest and open with regard to conflicts of interest (either real or perceived). Members must not use their position for personal gain in either business, political or social relationships. Therefore, a member who has, or may be perceived to have, such a personal interest in a particular matter under consideration should declare that interest, withdraw from all discussions relating to it and take no part in any vote on such matter."

A copy of paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Act, relating to the disclosure of certain interests is therefore included and all members of the Committee are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with its contents.

3.1 Draft Minutes of Public Council meeting No. 31, 25th October 2011 (Sent: 29th September 2011)

The Minutes of the 31st meeting of Council held on 25th October 2011 at An Bord Altranais were approved. Proposed and seconded by:

1. Ms. I. Kelleher
2. Mr. E. Hanly

Action¹ : Registrar's Office

3.2 Registrar's Report (Sent: 29th September 2011)

The Registrar indicated that due to the volume of business on today's Agendas the Registrar's Report would be taken as read. He highlighted key activities such as:

- Contracts regarding the sale of Shrewsbury Road were signed on 2nd December 2011 with a proposed closing date of 9th January 2012. The approved purchase of Wilson House in Fenian Street is proceeding as planned and documents will be signed in the coming week. Council will be kept fully informed of developments on both issues.

- The Registrar thanked Council member Mr. K. O’Hourihane and former Council member and President Ms. N. Harvey who have been nominated by the PSI to join a working group being established by the HSE of stakeholders involved in the care of nursing home residents
- The recent High Court case regarding Mr. Juan Pallares was settled and costs awarded to the PSI. The Registrar thanked Mr. Dominic Dowling and Mr. David Conlon Smith, who acted for the PSI.
- Ms. L. Horgan confirmed that the Irish Institute of Pharmacy contract was approved by the RCSI at their Council meeting on 10th November and the contract was signed thereafter by the RCSI. It will be signed by the President, Vice President and Registrar today – the effective date of the contract will therefore be 6th December 2011. Ms. Horgan indicated that the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group will be presented at the January 2012 Council meeting.

The President, Vice President and Registrar signed the contract for the Irish Institute of Pharmacy. The President thanked Ms. L. Horgan, the members of the Professional Development and Learning Committee and all those who had input into the formation of the Institute of Pharmacy.

3.3 Draft Methadone Guidance (Sent: 29th September 2011)

Ms. M. Doherty confirmed that the draft which was presented today had been approved by the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee. The purpose of the guidance is to clarify and remind pharmacists of the legal and professional requirements in the supply of methadone.

A number of small corrections and amendments were made to the version circulated in hard copy at the today’s meeting from the version sent on the i-pads earlier, resulting from feedback from the IMB and HSE. (The draft guidance was circulated to stakeholders including members of the Medication Safety Forum for their comment).

These minor amendments were: clarification of the opening hours of the Central Treatment List; insertion of reminder of requirement to forward prescriptions to the HSE within 14 days of last day of the month in which dispensed; mention of overage in manufacturer’s bottles and to never supply in these or other glass bottles ; cross-referencing with PSI’s Guidance on sourcing, storage and disposal; and re-emphasising point that when patient transfers from hospital that need to ensure arrangements in place for continuing treatment in community.

This guidance document was developed following some serious concerns and coroner’s reports which had come to our attention.

The Registrar thanked the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee and PSI staff for their work on this document. He also thanked the agencies who cooperated with its production and the profession for its support.

The PSI’s Draft Methadone Guidance was unanimously approved by Council.

Proposed and seconded by:

1. Mr. J. Corr
2. Mr. E. Hanly

Action² : Pharmacy Practice Development Unit

3.4 Motions from Administration and Finance Committee (Sent: 29th November 2011)

Ms. R. Purcell introduced the two Motions which authorised the PSI to open new bank accounts with Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Bank and she reminded Council that a decision was deferred in 2010 to due to the banking crisis. The Motions were now put forward for approval by Council as the status of these banks was now stable.

3.4.1: Motion No 1 – Bank of Ireland

The motion to approve the opening a bank account by the PSI with the Bank of Ireland was unanimously agreed.

Proposed and seconded by:

2. Ms. L. Clarke
2. Ms. D. Larkin

3.4.2: Motion No 2 – AIB

The motion to approve the opening a bank account by the PSI with Allied Irish Bank was unanimously agreed.

Proposed and seconded by:

1. Mr. A. Horan
2. Mr. J. Corr

Action³ : Administration and Finance Unit

3.5 Accounts and Audit (Sent: 29th September 2011)

3.5.1 PSI Management Accounts to 30th September 2011

Ms. R. Purcell gave an overview of the Management Accounts to the period ended 30th September 2011, as agreed by the Administration and Finance Committee.

The PSI Management Accounts to the period ended 30th September 2011 were unanimously approved.

3.5.2 Appointment of External Auditor (Sent: 29th September 2011)

The Registrar confirmed that, following the completion of a procurement process, the appointment of Anne Brady McQuillans DSK as the External Auditors of the PSI for a further year was recommended. The proposed appointment had been noted by the Audit Committee.

The appointment of External Auditors – Ann Brady McQuillans DSK – was unanimously approved.

Proposed and seconded by:

1. Ms. M. Ni Longain
2. Mr. F. Murphy

Action⁴: Administration and Finance Unit

3.6 Issue of Certification under Rule 18 of the PSI (Registration) Rules 2008 - Recognition of Third Country qualifications as qualifications appropriate for practice in Ireland (Sent 29th November 2011)

Mr. J. Collins presented a memo to Council from the Acting Head of the Registration and Qualification Recognition Unit.

Mr J. Collins explained that five Third Country applicants who presented for the Professional Registration Examination (PRE) held on 22nd October 2011 were successful.

It was proposed that each of these successful applicants be issued with a Certificate in accordance with Rule 18 of the PSI (Registration) rules 2008 confirming that the individual shall be regarded as having a qualification appropriate for practice in Ireland in accordance with Section 16 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 as amended and will therefore be eligible to apply for registration as a pharmacist.

It was also proposed that, for the purposes of and within the meaning of section 14(1) as read with s14(2), s16(2)(b) and s 16(6) and Rule 18 of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Registration) Rules 2008, (the authority to register a person in the Register of Pharmacists who holds a recognised Third Country Qualification), the holder of the above Certificate be regarded as holding a qualification appropriate for practice and where they submit an application for registration which is valid, complete and complies with the criteria for registration set down in

Schedule 1 to the PSI (Registration) Rules 2008, and no issues are identified by the Registrar in its processing, that such persons be registered in the Register of Pharmacists.

The Issue of Certification under Rule 18 of the PSI (Registration) Rules 2008 - Recognition of Third Country qualifications as qualifications appropriate for practice in Ireland was approved.

Proposed and seconded by:

1. Mr. N. Stenson
2. Ms. D. Larkin

Action⁵: Registration & Qualification Recognition Unit

3.7 Council Meeting Dates 2012 (Sent: 29th September 2011)

The Registrar presented the list of suggested Council and Chairpersons meeting dates for 2012 which were prepared following a survey of Council members.

The dates of Council meetings in 2012 as presented were unanimously approved.

3.8 National Forum for Pharmacy Education & Accreditation (Sent: 29th September 2011)

3.8.1 Membership of the National Forum

The President indicated that this item would be deferred until the 31st January 2012 Council meeting.

3.8.2 Report from the National Forum to Council

The President invited the Chairperson of the National Forum, Ms. M. Shanley, to address this item.

Ms. Shanley confirmed that the focus of this report was on the funding model for the 5-year integrated programme.

Ms. Shanley indicated that two of the three schools of pharmacy recognise the value of a five year fully integrated degree and are committed to establishing such a programme in their schools. All the schools have been involved in discussions aimed at introducing such a degree over recent months. Ms. Shanley indicated that there is concern about the funding of the extra year, together with concerns about underfunding of the current bachelor degree in pharmacy generally. A fee for students in the 5th year is one solution although it is not the Forum's remit to set a level of fee. The Forum will be examining costing models in order to be satisfied that the programme can be delivered within a reasonable cost range. Current student intake will be alerted that fee changes may be applied before the end of their course.

In response to a query, Ms. Shanley confirmed that the 2012 intake of pharmacy students will be admitted to a four year level 8 degree programme. Ms. Shanley further explained that discussions are on-going with the higher education institutions with a view to transferring those students to an integrated programme in 2013 and producing the first cohort of graduates from the integrated programme as planned in 2017.

The Registrar thanked Ms. Shanley and the Forum for their work to date. He also thanked the Higher Education Authority and the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Ruairi Quinn for his support. The Registrar advised that he has been asked to Chair a new Review Group on a proposed new grade of Medical Specialist.

Mr. E. Hanly, Vice President, a member of the National Forum, informed the meeting that, in line with the recommendation contained in the PEARS Report, it appears necessary to commission a report into the costs of operating the new programme. The President indicated that he had been briefed to this effect and that it is proposed to incorporate the funding for this report into the 2012 Service Plan.

The President thanked the Vice President, Ms. M. Shanley, Ms. L. Horgan and the staff in the Professional Development and Learning Unit. He said that the Council appreciates work of the Forum and is fully committed to the plan to develop the 5 year fully integrated programme.

3.9 Update on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Training Programme

The President invited Ms. K. O'Flaherty to address this item. Ms. O'Flaherty circulated a short briefing paper which outlined developments since the under-dosing of some patients with the seasonal influenza vaccine in pharmacies first came to the PSI's attention on Wednesday 23rd November. Ms. O'Flaherty confirmed that regular PSI communication had been maintained with the profession over the past two weeks, via the PSI website and emails. Regular contact was also maintained with the School of Pharmacy in TCD, the Irish Pharmacy Union and Hibernian Healthcare. Ms. O'Flaherty also confirmed that records kept by pharmacists have facilitated identification of patients affected and to date 80% of these patients have been re-vaccinated.

The Registrar has established a Risk Review Group to review the factors related to the under-dosing error and to establish what can be learned. The review will be conducted in an open, 'blame free' approach. The Group, which consists of Prof. Peter Weedle, Mr. Tom McGuinn, Ms. Mary Culliton, Mr. Raymond Anderson, Mr. Stephen McMahon and Ms. Marie McConn, will meet on 14th December at the PSI offices.

The Registrar acknowledged the support of the Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, the Chief Pharmacist, Ms. M. Kinsella, and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tony Holohan at the Department of Health. He paid tribute to Hibernian Healthcare for the speed and comprehensive nature of their response. He thanked Ms. K. O'Flaherty and the Pharmacy Practice Development Unit for their work. The President and other Council members reiterated these words of thanks.

3.10 Professional Registration Examination (PRE) (Sent: 29th September 2011)

3.10.1 Results of the PRE held on 22nd October 2011

Mr. N. Stenson confirmed that of the 172 candidates, 165 were interns and seven were Third Country applicants. 13 Interns had failed the examination and Ms. L. Horgan confirmed that two Third Country candidates had failed. This resulted in a failure rate of just over 8% which compares favourably with international rates.

3.10.2 Reports of the External Examiners

The Reports of the External Examiners were provided to Council for information and were duly noted.

The meeting ended at 11.20am.