

Minutes

The Public session of the 16th Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland established pursuant to the Pharmacy Act 2007 was held on Tuesday 26th January 2010 in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1.

Council Members present: N. Harvey, President, Mr. P. Fahey, Vice-President, Mr. S. Boyle, Mr. J. Collins, Ms. M. Doherty, Dr. A. Frankish, Mr. E. Hanly, Dr. J. Hillery, Mr. A. Horan, Mr. S. Hurley, Ms. I. Kelleher, Dr. B. Leddy, Ms. D. Larkin, Ms. K. Mulvenna, Mr. D. O'Loughlin

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

Also in attendance:

Mr. David McParland, BL – Legal Assessor to Council
Mr. Shane McQuillan, Howarth Bastow Charleton

1. Apologies

Dr. P. Gallagher, Ms. C. Hallahan, Ms. M. Ní Longáin, Prof. J. Nunn, Asst. Comm. N. O'Sullivan, Ms. R. Purcell

2. Declaration of Interests (Appendix A)

The President referred to Appendix A in Council documentation.

“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 as Appendix A and all members of the Committee are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with its contents.

3.1 Draft Minutes of meeting No. 15 – Public: (Appendix B: Sent 19th January 2010)

The draft minutes of public Meeting Number 15, 1st December 2009, were approved. It was noted that the date of the meeting with Dr. Vaughan of the HSE was 25th November, not January, as stated in the Minutes under President and Registrar's Business. This error was rectified.

The Minutes were proposed and seconded by:

1. Dr. B. Leddy
2. Mr. S. Boyle

Action¹: Office of the Registrar

3.2 Draft PSI Corporate Strategy 2010-2012 (Appendix C: Sent 19th January 2010)

The President invited Council members to comment on the Draft Corporate Strategy document. Some minor amendments were suggested and the document will be presented for decision at the March Council meeting once these changes have been incorporated, and following Department of Health and Children approval.

On a question of clarification on the remit of the PSI in relation to hospital pharmacies, Mr. T. McGuinn clarified that all pharmacists are covered by the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists, and that no limits were placed on the functions of the PSI under Part 7 of the Act. The Registrar confirmed that the PSI has a role in all locations where pharmacy is practiced. The President requested written clarification on this matter.

Action²: Office of the Registrar

3.3 Draft PSI Service Plan 2010 (Appendix D: Sent 19th January 2010)

The Registrar briefed Council on the Service Plan for 2010 and invited Mr. Shane McQuillan to outline the link between the Balanced Score Card in both the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan documents. The Registrar confirmed that the Service Plan is contingent on the response of the Department of Health and Children to the PSI's proposal on staffing issues. Agreement to the proposal is required if the PSI is to meet its objectives in the areas of inspection and enforcement, fitness to practice and legal affairs, continuing professional development and pharmacy practice development. The Registrar confirmed he will return to Council with a revised Service Plan if no approval is forthcoming.

The Registrar thanked Ms R. Purcell and the Administration Finance and Corporate Governance Committee, along with Mr. Shane McQuillan of Horwath Bastow Charleton and the staff of the PSI for all their work on the Service Plan document.

The Draft PSI Service Plan 2010 was unanimously approved by Council.

Action³: Office of the Registrar

3.4 Memorandum of Understanding with the Crisis Pregnancy Agency (Appendix E: Sent 19th January 2010)

The Registrar introduced the Memorandum of Understanding with the Crisis Pregnancy Agency (CPA). The PSI and the CPA are both engaged in the discharge of their respective functions in the public interest, with particular focus on the protection and enhancement of public health. This Memorandum of Understanding will facilitate collaboration between the PSI and the CPA. The PSI and CPA will pursue opportunities for co-operation when planning and developing policies of a common interest. This co-operation aims to overcome barriers to seeking joint and standardised approaches to policy and operational matters through the guidance and decisions of their respective Council/Board.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Crisis Pregnancy Agency was unanimously approved by Council.

Proposed and Seconded:

1. Mr. P. Fahey 2. Ms. D. Larkin

Action⁴: Office of the Registrar

3.6 Motion on Proposal for new fee for a Temporary Relocation of a Retail Pharmacy Business (Appendix F: sent 19th January 2010)

Dr. J. Hillery reminded Council that this item had been considered at the December 09 meeting, and that the Motion had been withdrawn then on receipt of legal advice indicating that a public consultation process was required before amendment of the Rules could be completed. A fee of €1000 will apply to temporary relocations of a retail pharmacy business.

The Motion for the Pharmaceutical Society Of Ireland (Fees) (Amendment) Rules 2010 was approved by Council.

Proposed and Seconded:

1. Mr. J. Collins
2. Mr. A. Horan

Action⁵: Education and Registration Unit

3.7 Urgent Committee Matters (Verbal Report from Registrar)

The Registrar indicated to Council that individuals with specific relevant experience were being considered for co-option to PSI Advisory Committees in order to supplement the expertise already in existence on these committees, and that these names would be brought to Council for decision in due course.

Action⁶: Office of the Registrar

3.8 Summary of Delegations of Functions previously approved by Council (Appendix H: sent 19th January 2010)

Ms C. McGoldrick explained that the document presented in Appendix H for information purposes was a work in progress and that any comments from Council members would be welcomed. It would be updated as and when delegations were approved or revised by Council.

4. Committee Reports

The President explained that, due to pressure of business at this meeting, and due to the short time-frame since the last meeting on 1st December 2009, Committee reports would be deferred to the next meeting.

5. President's & Registrar's Business

5.1 Meeting with Dr. Barry White, HSE

The Registrar reported on a very successful meeting with Dr. Barry White, Quality and Clinical Care Directorate in the HSE, which was held on 15th January 2010. Advisory Groups have been established in seven areas of care, with the objectives of cost, quality and access to care for patients. The meeting with the PSI was to discuss the contribution that pharmacists could make. The Pharmacy Ireland 2020 will meet to discuss this matter further.

5.2 Report on meetings in Brussels

- The Registrar reported on Health Professionals Crossing Borders meeting on professional mobility and the role of professional healthcare regulation and the contribution it makes to high quality healthcare and patient safety in Europe, which he attended with Ms. L. Horgan on 2nd December. The meeting facilitated discussions in the area of voluntary information sharing between healthcare regulators in different jurisdictions. It was agreed that tighter governance arrangements were required internationally.
- The President will meet with the new EU Health Commissioner Designate, Mr. John Dalli, in the Summer.
- Mr. P. Fahey informed the meeting that pharmaceutical policy in the new EU Commission will no longer be the responsibility of DG Enterprise and Industry and will move to the Health and Consumer Policy Directorate - DG Sanco.
- The Registrar confirmed that the issue of mail order pharmacy is a concern in Europe and that he had met with the Department of the Health Permanent Representative in Brussels on this issue.

5.3 Report on activity in relation to influenza pandemic (Ms. K. O'Flaherty)

Ms. K. O'Flaherty briefed Council on the activities of the PSI during the recent H1N1 epidemic, and in particular on the advisory Taskforce, chaired by PSI pharmacy policy advisor and former Chief Pharmacist at the Department of Health and Children, Mr. Tom McGuinn. Weekly meetings were held by teleconference. Ms K. O'Flaherty also confirmed that the PSI's registration database containing contact details for pharmacists, including superintendent and supervising pharmacists (and therefore pharmacies), and its communication capabilities with registrants, was a critical factor in the dissemination of important information and updates on the evolving situation. The PSI engaged intensively in contacting pharmacists and pharmacies to ensure that their contact details were accurate and up-to-date.

5.4 WHPCR Conference: Geneva – 18/19 February 2010

The Registrar confirmed that he will speak at the World Health Professions Conference on Regulation (WHPCR) on 19th February in Geneva. The President and Dr. John Hillery will also attend, along with Ms K. O'Flaherty and Mr. T. McGuinn.

5.5 Ministerial directions in respect of salary reductions for Registrar and Staff of PSI

The Registrar confirmed that he had received instructions from the Department of Health and Children in relation to the salaries of the Registrar and the staff of the PSI. He confirmed that salary cuts had been implemented as instructed by the Department of Health and Children and Minister for Finance.

The meeting ended at 11.40am. The next Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 25th March** at the RCSI.

The Registrar announced that it is likely a further meeting will be required in May/June to address key policy issues arising from the Service Plan, practice of pharmacy issues and other matters. This may necessitate an all day meeting and Ms J. Aylward will be in contact in due course with further information.