

Minutes

The Public session of the 17th Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland established pursuant to the Pharmacy Act 2007 was held on Thursday 25th March in the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin 2.

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

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

Prof. J. Kelly, Head of School of Pharmacy at RCSI, who is retiring shortly after 10 years, addressed the meeting and welcomed the PSI Council to the RCSI. In his address, he welcomed the introduction of the MPharm programme and its contribution to the future development of the profession. Prof. Kelly thanked all those involved in this project.

1. Apologies

Mr. S. Hurley, Asst. Comm. Noirin 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 18th March 2010)

The draft minutes of public Meeting Number 16, 26th January 2010, were approved.

The Minutes were proposed and seconded by:

1. Dr. B. Leddy
2. Mr. D. O'Loughlin

Action!: Office of the Registrar

3.2 Annual Report and Financial Statements 2009 (Appendix C: Registrar. Sent 18th March 2010)

The Registrar confirmed that the Financial Statements had been approved by both the Administration Finance and Corporate Governance and Chairperson's Committees. Ms. M. Ni Longain advised that the Audit Committee had also reviewed the draft Financial Statements 2009. Council were invited to make further comments on the Annual Report before 29th March. The Report would then be submitted to the Minister for Health and Children by 31st March 2010, in line with Schedule 1 paragraph 17(1) of the Pharmacy Act 2007.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2009 were unanimously approved.

Action²: Office of the Registrar

3.3 Corporate Strategy (Appendix D: Registrar. Sent 18th March 2010)

The Corporate Strategy was presented for final approval, and incorporates amendments suggested by Council members following the January meeting. The Registrar indicated that it was hoped the document would be launched, along with the PSI's new website, in May.

The PSI Corporate Strategy was unanimously approved.

3.4 a) Public Consultation on draft Non-Prescription Medicinal Products Containing Codeine: Draft Guidance for Pharmacists on Safe Supply (Appendix E(i): Sent 18th March 2010)

Ms K. Mulvenna outlined to the meeting the consultation process which had taken place and confirmed that 42 submissions were received, which was greatly appreciated. Each submission had been carefully considered and reviewed and their points taken into consideration by the Standards and Practice Committee. She confirmed that the submission by the Irish Medicines Board indicated an intention to carry out a regulatory review of these products in early 2010.

b) Non-Prescription Medicinal Products Containing Codeine: Guidance for Pharmacists on Safe Supply to Patients (Appendix E(ii): Sent 18th March 2010)

The guidance document was approved in principle. The Standards and Practice Committee was asked to develop an implementation plan before the guidance is formally issued, which would incorporate information about referral pathways for patients requiring further assistance or treatment and a public and stakeholder awareness and information campaign on the implementation of the guidance. This implementation plan, including an effective date from which the guidance would be implemented, is to be brought to Council at its meeting on 25 May. The Registrar thanked the Standards and Practice Committee and PSI staff involved for their work on both documents.

Action³: Standards and Practice Unit

3.5 Appointment of Presiding Officers (Appendix F: Sent 18th March 2010)

The Registrar outlined that in relation to the election for President and Vice-President to be held in May, and in accordance with Rule 17(4) of the PSI (Council) Rules 2008, Council are obliged to appoint a Presiding Officer and Alternate Presiding Officer at this meeting.

The appointment of Dr. C. Stokes and Mr. T. McGuinn to these roles was unanimously approved.

Action⁴: Office of the Registrar

3.6 Clarification sought by President at 26 January Council meeting (Appendix G: Sent 18th March 2010)

The President acknowledged that the PSI's reply to the question she raised at the January meeting was acceptable to her, and reported that concern exists among hospital pharmacists about the role and responsibility of superintendent pharmacists and their role in the wider health service.

The Registrar confirmed that he is conscious of concerns and is currently chairing a review group on hospital pharmacy and that the findings of this group would be brought to Council in due course.

Extract from draft minutes of 26 January 2010:

“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.”

Response from Ms. K. O’Flaherty:

I have discussed the matter with Mr. Tom McGuinn and the following clarification is given:

The powers given to the PSI under Part 7 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 are extensive, and in particular reference is made to Section 67 which outlines the powers of entry, search and seizure etc.

These powers enable the PSI's inspectors, as authorised officers, to carry out any inspections or investigations as may be necessary, whether these involve pharmacists, retail pharmacy businesses and/or medicinal products.

In addition, the Code of Conduct for pharmacists applies to all registered pharmacists, regardless of their area of practice or expertise, and therefore the associated mechanisms under Part 6 of the Act apply, should these be necessary.

On a final note of clarification, regarding ‘hospital pharmacies’, it should be noted that practically all hospital pharmacy departments are in fact registered as retail pharmacy businesses in the Register held by the PSI; the Register being publicly available to view on the PSI website.

The PSI also understands that the general issues in relation to the licensing of hospitals and other healthcare facilities is being explored by the Department of Health and Children.”

3.7 Risk Register of the PSI for discussion (Appendix H: Sent 18th March 2010)

Mr. A. Horan welcomed the document prepared by the PSI and complimented the work done. He suggested a short summary might be considered. The Risk Register had also been approved by the Audit Committee.

He recommended that Advisory Committees should be involved in the management of risk on an ongoing basis.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Inspection and Enforcement Committee Report (Appendix I: Sent 18th March 2010)

Mr. D. O’Loughlin confirmed that the majority of issues would be dealt with in the Private meeting following conclusion of the Public meeting.

4.2 Administration, Finance & Corporate Governance Committee Report (Appendix J: Sent 18th March 2010)

In the absence of Ms. R. Purcell, Ms. D. Larkin indicated that there was nothing further to add to the report. She drew Council’s attention to the internal audit report on expense claims and that no major issues had been highlighted in this report. Ms. M. Ni Longain also confirmed that the Audit Committee had had sight of the report.

4.3 Professional Development & Learning Committee (Appendix K: Sent 18th March 2010)

Dr. P. Gallagher reported that the PEARs Project and Review of CPD Models Project were both running on target. He reminded Council of the additional Council meeting on 1st June to consider the recommendations from both Projects. Dr. P. Gallagher confirmed that the conditions approved by Council in 2009 for the structure of the application fee for the NPIP in 2009/10 should also be applied to applicants for the 2010/11 programme. He confirmed that the Committee has asked that the PEARs Project research team be requested to consider whether the accredited programmes of education and training to become a pharmacist should allow for exemptions from certain modules for students who have prior academic qualifications.

In answer to a question on the recognition of Tutor Pharmacists and the need for future consideration of the placement process, Dr. Gallagher confirmed that a project steering group has been set up by the RCSI to deal with accreditation of Tutor Pharmacists and hopes to revert with recommendations following consideration by the Professional Development and Learning Committee. He highlighted the need for quality assurance on this issue.

The President thanked Dr. P. Gallagher and Ms L. Horgan for their work in this area.

Action⁵: Professional Development & Learning

4.4 Registration & Qualification Recognition Committee (Appendix L: Sent 18th March 2010)

Following an overview by Dr. J. Hillery, Ms. L. Horgan highlighted the key areas of the Report on the continued registration process and removal from the Registers.

4.5 Standards & Practice Committee (Appendix M: Sent 18th March 2010)

Ms. K. Mulvenna drew attention to the work done on guidelines on the patient consultation area, which are currently subject to a public consultation process. She also confirmed that guidelines are being drafted on the steps to be taken in the cancellation of registration and closure of a Retail Pharmacy Business and that interim guidelines have been made available should pharmacy owners or pharmacists require information or guidance on this issue.

4.6 Chairperson's Committee (Appendix N: Sent 18th March 2010)

Ms. C. Hallahan confirmed there was nothing further to add to this report.

4.7 Council Members' Time

Mr. J. Collins referred to the letter received by the PSI from An Bord Pleanala upholding the PSI's submission on the Primary Care Centre in Killarney and confirming that the inclusion of a dispensary constitutes a change of use and therefore is considered a development which does not come within scope of exempted development provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

The Registrar confirmed that this is a complex area and indicated the need for information from pharmacists around the country in order to highlight these issues.

5. President's & Registrar's Business

5.1 Letter from Pharmaceutical Assistants Association

The Registrar indicated that it would not be possible for the PSI to proceed along the lines requested by the PAA in their letter to the PSI dated March 1st. A meeting will be arranged between the PSI and the PAA.

5.2 Letter from National Association of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians

The Registrar confirmed that Dr. P. Gallagher and the Professional Development and Learning Committee will commence exploratory work in relation to the issues outlined in the letter from the Association, in which they request that their members be registered and regulated. Dr. P. Gallagher will report to Council in due course.

5.3 Proposed Seminar: EU Parliament: 14th April

The Registrar confirmed he will address a seminar in Brussels on 14th April on the issue of e-pharmacy and e-commerce. The President will also attend. The Chief Executive and Registrar of the General Medical Council in London, Mr. Niall Dickson, will also address the meeting. Mr. John Dalli, the new European Commissioner responsible for Health and Consumer Policy Innovation will be briefed on the concerns of regulators for patient safety.

5.4 Update on WHPCR Conference : 17-19 February 2010, Geneva.

The Registrar confirmed that he addressed the WHPCR conference in Geneva in February, on the subject of the desired future for health professional regulation. The conference was attended by the President, Mr T. McGuinn and Ms K. O'Flaherty of the PSI.

5.5 Chief Medical Officer and Chief Pharmacist to address Council

Dr. Tony Holohan and Ms Marita Kinsella will be invited to address Council at their next meeting, in their capacity as representatives on issues of medication safety, following the Report from the Commission on Patient Safety.