

To approve

Minutes of the Meeting on 10 September 2009¹

Present

Professor Peter Rubin, Chair

Sir Rodney Brooke
Professor Jane Dacre
Dr Sam Everington
Ms Sally Hawkins
Dr John Jenkins
Archy Kirkwood
Ms Ros Levenson
Professor Malcolm Lewis
Mr Robin MacLeod
Professor Rajan Madhok
Dr Johann Malawana

Dr Joan Martin
Mrs Suzanne McCarthy
Professor Jim McKillop
Professor Trudie Roberts
Mrs Ann Robinson
Mrs Enid Rowlands
Dr Mairi Scott
Professor Iqbal Singh
Ms Anne Weyman
Dr Hamish Wilson

Finlay Scott
Chief Executive and Registrar

¹ These Minutes should be read in conjunction with the Council papers for this meeting, which are available on our website at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>. A transcript is also available on our website.

Chair's Business

1. Apologies for absence were noted from Professor Terence Stephenson and Mr Stephen Whittle.
2. The Chair, on Council's behalf, paid tribute to Finlay Scott, Chief Executive and Registrar, for his outstanding leadership and contribution to the General Medical Council over the past 15 years.
3. Council noted the need to appoint a new Registrar. Council:
 - a. Agreed to appoint Paul Philip as Registrar with effect from 1 October 2009 until and including 1 January 2010.
 - b. Agreed to appoint Niall Dickson as Registrar with effect from 2 January 2010.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2009

4. Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 8 July 2009 as a true record subject to substituting 'University of Essex' with 'University of Sussex' in paragraph 16, and they were subsequently signed by the Chair.

Chief Executive's Report

5. Council considered the Chief Executive's report, noting progress since the meeting on 8 July 2009, mapped against the key aims in the 2009 Business Plan.
6. Council:
 - a. Noted that the GMC had secured a place in the 'Top 50 Call Centres for Customer Services' awards scheme.
 - b. Noted that *Good Medical Practice in Action* had been shortlisted in the British Computer Society/Computing UK IT Industry Awards 2009 in the category of Internet product of the Year.
 - c. Noted that the GMC had been successful in securing certification of BSI ISO 27001 for the information security arrangements in the Education and Revalidation Directorate.
7. During the discussion, the Chief Executive responded to a number of members' questions. The Chief Executive confirmed that there would be an opportunity to consider resource issues, including in the context of the future management of fitness to practise hearings, on 22 October 2009. Council would also consider the budget for 2010 on 9 December 2009.

8. Council received an update from the Chair of the Review of Standing Orders Working Group. Council noted:

- a. That work continues to develop the new Governance Handbook.
- b. That members would be invited to comment on a further draft before the Working Group reports to Council with recommendations on 22 October 2009.

Revalidation: Progress Report

9. Council considered a progress report on the ongoing revalidation work programme.

10. Council:

- a. Considered progress on each of the 12 work streams.
- b. Noted the ongoing work in relation to:
 - i. The development of principles and criteria for multi-source feedback in revalidation, and ongoing work to develop MSF tools.
 - ii. The development of specialty specific standards for recertification, including plans to establish a working group to undertake the initial evaluation of the medical Royal College and Faculty submissions on standards for recertification.
 - iii. The planned review of the GMC's guidance *Continuing Professional Development*.

11. Further development work on these issues would be undertaken by the Continued Practice Board and the UK Revalidation Programme Board, and proposals developed for discussion by Council.

12. During the discussion, members:

- a. Emphasised the importance of continuing to liaise with the systems regulators and quality improvement bodies in each of the four countries, and noted the establishment of a Systems Regulators Revalidation Group.
- b. Noted that the proposed consultation on the implementation of revalidation was expected for consideration by Council on 16 February 2010, and that equality implications would be considered at all stages in moving towards implementation.

- c. Noted that a very useful discussion had been held with members of the newly established Reference Community about possible ways in which communications with patients and the public on revalidation could be taken forward.

Licences to Practise and Associated Regulations

13. On 8 July 2009 Council considered a report on the outcome of the consultation on the introduction of licences to practise, and endorsed the proposed approach and related guidance for doctors. Since then, the draft regulations and procedure rules associated with the grant, withdrawal and restoration of licences, including in circumstances when fitness to practise matters may be an issue, had been reviewed and updated to take account of the outcome of the consultation and recent changes to the Medical Act 1983.

14. Council noted the significance in terms of making the regulations of having the necessary legislative framework in place ready for the introduction of licensing on 16 November 2009, and the milestone this represents towards the implementation of revalidation.

15. Council reviewed the draft regulations, rules and guidance associated with the introduction of licences to practise. Council:

- a. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Licence to Practise) Regulations 2009.
- b. Agreed to make the revised GMC Registration Fees Regulations, effective from 16 November 2009.
- c. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Fitness to Practise) (Disqualifying Decisions and Determinations by Regulatory Bodies) procedure (Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2009.
- d. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Voluntary Erasure and Restoration following Voluntary Erasure)(Amendment) Regulations Order of Council 2009.
- e. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Restoration following Administrative Erasure) (Amendment) Regulations Order of Council 2009.
- f. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Registration Appeals Panel Procedure) (Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2009.
- g. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Constitution of Panels and Investigation Committee) (Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2009.

- h. Agreed to make the General Medical Council (Form and Content of the Register) Regulations 2009.
- i. Agreed the amended Registration Decisions Arrangement of Procedure Rules.

Evaluating the GMC's Performance

16. Council received a report on the outcome of each of the four evaluation pilots, and considered plans for implementing and aligning the evaluation framework to the development of the corporate strategy and the 2010 Business Plan.

17. Council:

- a. Endorsed the results of the evaluation pilots.
- b. Agreed the principles and next steps for the implementation of the evaluation framework, including that evaluation should be:
 - i. Flexible in approach, utilising a range of methods and measures.
 - ii. Implemented at the planning stage, before work is underway.
 - iii. Aligned with, and built on, existing management information where possible.
- c. Noted that the work on evaluation would be aligned to the development of the corporate strategy and to the 2010 Business Plan, and that further work would be undertaken to:
 - i. Identify a number of high level performance indicators which would be measured and reported to Council at least annually.
 - ii. Identify the key outcomes and measures associated with all objectives in the 2010 Business Plan and which would be monitored and reported to Council on a quarterly basis.

18. During the discussion, members:

- a. Noted the usefulness of the evaluation pilots in demonstrating the practical application of the evaluation framework.

- b. Acknowledged the importance of sharing information and learning from the development of the evaluation framework, as part of the GMC's commitment to working in partnership for the purposes of improving regulation. Information about progress with the development of the framework would be shared with other regulators, including at one of the forthcoming Good Practice Seminars organised by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence as a follow-up to the performance review report 2008/09.
- c. Emphasised the importance of ensuring that the framework is sufficiently flexible to take assess performance management, outcomes and the impact of the GMC's work in qualitative as well as quantative terms.
- d. Emphasised the importance of taking performance evaluation forward so that it is proportionate and appropriate to the delivery of the desired outcomes, and that progress is monitored.
- e. Noted that further work would be undertaken to refine the proposed terminology and ensure that the objectives are clearly articulated and comprehensive.

Merger of PMETB with the GMC: Progress Report

19. Council received an interim progress report on preparations for the merger of PMETB with the GMC, including:

- a. An update on the legislation associated with the merger.
- b. The ongoing work to prepare for integration in terms of accommodation, finance, information systems, human resources, business integration and communication activities.

20. Council:

- a. Noted that the Joint Coordination Group would be meeting to review progress on 15 September 2009, and would report to Council on 22 October 2009.
- b. Agreed that the project to merge PMETB with the GMC is on track.

2010 Schedule of Meetings

21. Council received a schedule of proposed dates for Council, Board, committee and reference group meetings in 2010. Council:

- a. Agreed the 2010 schedule of meetings.

b. Noted that further information would be circulated confirming which Council meetings would be held in Belfast and Manchester.

22. During the discussion, it was agreed that further information would be circulated to members about the forward agenda programme and work plans for Council and the Boards, committees and reference groups, in the light of the development of the 2010 Business Plan.