

*To approve*

**Minutes of the Meeting on 26 March 2009<sup>1</sup>**

**Present**

**Professor Sir Graeme Catto, Chair**

Sir Rodney Brooke  
Professor Jane Dacre  
Dr Sam Everington  
Ms Sally Hawkins  
Dr John Jenkins  
Archy Kirkwood  
Ms Ros Levenson  
Dr Malcolm Lewis  
Mr Robin MacLeod  
Dr Johann Malawana  
Dr Joan Martin  
Mrs Suzanne McCarthy

Professor Jim McKillop  
Professor Trudie Roberts  
Mrs Ann Robinson  
Mrs Enid Rowlands  
Professor Peter Rubin  
Dr Mairi Scott  
Professor Iqbal Singh  
Professor Terence Stephenson  
Ms Anne Weyman  
Mr Stephen Whittle  
Dr Hamish Wilson

Finlay Scott  
Chief Executive and Registrar

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Rajan Madhok.
2. The Chair thanked Dr John Jenkins, Mrs Ann Robinson and Professor Peter Rubin for the presentations given in support of their candidacy for election to Chair of the Council.
3. The Chair congratulated the following members on their appointments:
  - a. Professor Jane Dacre: Convenor of the Education and Training Reference Group.
  - b. Dr Joan Martin: Convenor of the Fitness to Practise Reference Group.
  - c. Dr Mairi Scott: Convenor of the Registration Reference Group.
  - d. Ms Ros Levenson: Convenor of the Standards and Ethics Reference Group.
  - e. Professor Trudie Roberts: Convenor of the Research Reference Group.
  - f. Professor Iqbal Singh: Convenor of the Equality and Diversity Reference Group.

## **Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2009**

4. Council:
  - a. Approved the minutes of the meeting on 25 February 2009 as a true record, and they were signed by the Chair.
  - b. Noted, in relation to paragraph 5 of the minutes, that emerging standards and ethics issues had been built into the forward seminar programme for 2009 so that members could be engaged early in the development of guidance.

## **Chief Executive's Report**

5. Council:
  - a. Noted the enhancements to the Chief Executive's Report, including the exception reporting approach adopted.

- b. Considered the Chief Executive's report, noting progress since the meeting on 25 February 2009, mapped against the key aims in the 2009 Business Plan.
  - c. Agreed to publish on the website an interim version of the Equality Scheme 2009. The interim Scheme will be reviewed and enhanced during 2009, and a revised draft Scheme issued for consultation later in 2009.
  - d. Agreed that regulatory functions for Foundation Programme (initially Foundation Year 1, followed by Foundation Year 2) should sit with the Postgraduate Board.
  - e. Agreed to delegate to the Undergraduate Board the powers under sections 5(2), 5(2A) and 5(3), 6 and 7 of the Medical Act 1983 as amended, as they apply to basic medical education up to the point of graduation.
  - f. Agreed to delegate to the Postgraduate Board the powers under sections 5(2)(c), 5(2A), 10A(2), (4) and (7) of the Medical Act 1983 as amended, as they apply to Foundation Year 1.
  - g. Noted that proposals would be developed, for Council to endorse, to delegate to the Continued Practice Board responsibility for taking forward the work required to deliver revalidation.
  - h. Noted an update on current GMC consultations on the review of *Tomorrow's Doctors*, End of Life Care, and proposed changes to the Fitness to Practise Rules 2004.
  - i. Noted that the GMC had been successful in securing an extension of BSI ISO 27001 certification for the information security arrangements in the Communications Directorate and the Standards and Ethics team.
6. During the discussion, the Chief Executive confirmed that further information had been sought from the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, designated an approved practice setting, about the steps being taken to address the concerns set out in the Healthcare Commission's recent report into treatment and standards of care at the Trust between 2002 and 2007.
7. A post implementation review and evaluation of the New Registration Framework, which included the framework and requirements for the recognition of approved practice setting status, would be undertaken and the outcome reported to Council later in 2009. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that the review included consideration of the effectiveness of relying on quality assurance by other agencies.

8. The Chief Executive confirmed that early discussions had been held with the new Care Quality Commission about the importance of ensuring that the arrangements for providing assurance in relation to clinical governance and appraisals systems would be sufficiently robust to support revalidation.

### **Evaluation Framework**

9. Council considered how to take forward the development of a framework for evaluating organisational performance against delivery of the GMC's statutory purpose.

10. Council:

a. Noted the work undertaken in developing a draft framework and commended by the Council in 2008.

b. Noted progress with the integration of performance evaluation into all operational plans for 2009 and the proposed pilot for evaluating the success of four key priorities drawn from the 2009 Business Plan.

c. Agreed that the Office should proceed to further develop the draft framework, together with any Council members who wished to assist.

11. During the discussion, members agreed the importance of seeking to ensure clarity and simplicity in developing the model. A report would be made to Council on 10 September 2009.

### **Revalidation: Progress Report**

12. Council:

a. Received a progress report on the ongoing programme of work on revalidation.

b. Agreed the proposed structure of the regular report on the implementation of revalidation, subject to the inclusion of more detailed information about timescales and action being taken to address any slippage where it may occur.

13. During the discussion, members noted that equality implications would be considered at all stages in moving towards implementation, and that the Equality and Diversity Reference Group would be engaged with this.

14. Members also noted the interdependencies between Council, the UK Revalidation Programme Board, and other external organisations responsible for delivering the implementation of revalidation, and the need to continue to review and manage the risks associated with delivery.

15. The Chief Executive reported that the process for re-inviting expressions of interest in the Council member places on the UK Revalidation Programme Board was complete, and that brokering would be undertaken to resolve membership.

16. The Chief Executive also reported that Sir Michael Pitt, the Chair of the UK Revalidation Programme Board, had recently been appointed as Chair of the Planning Commission, and that further consideration would be given to any possible implications for his revalidation related role.

### **Regulating Medical Education and Training: Policy Review**

17. The Chair welcomed Lord Patel, Chair of the Policy Review, to the meeting.

18. Council:

a. Received a progress report from Lord Patel on the outcome of preliminary discussions with a range of bodies with a key interest in the review.

b. Noted the emerging themes from the preliminary discussions, also tabled for information.

c. Agreed that members of the Education and Training Reference Group, supplemented by representatives nominated by the Board of PMETB, would provide the advisory group to support the review, which will be chaired by Lord Patel.

d. Agreed the draft terms of reference for the review as set out in Annex A.

19. In addition to the issues raised during the discussion. Lord Patel welcomed further feedback from members on any other issues which might be considered during the review.

### **Joint Co-ordination Group: Terms of Reference**

20. Council received a report on the arrangements for ensuring appropriate oversight and assurance of the merger of PMETB with the GMC.

21. Council:

a. Noted that the Joint Co-ordination Group would exercise the assurance function previously undertaken by the Joint Oversight Group.

b. Agreed the terms of reference for the Joint Co-ordination Group at Annex B.

- c. Noted that members of the GMC's Postgraduate Board would be invited to express an interest in filling the GMC places on the Group, with a view to establishing the Group as soon as practicable.

### **Review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority**

22. Council considered the principles and process for informing a review of the current Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority.
23. Council:
  - a. Agreed to undertake a fundamental review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority.
  - b. Agreed to establish a working group of members and staff to co-ordinate the review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority, and to report with recommendations.
24. During the discussion, members noted the planned timetable for completing the review, and agreed that the working group should review and modify the timetable if necessary in taking the work forward.

### **Fitness to Practise at the Point of Full Registration**

25. Council considered whether, in the light of experience gained since the New Registration Framework was introduced in October 2007, any modification should be made, for provisionally registered doctors, to how the test of fitness to practise is operated at the point of full registration.
26. Council:
  - a. Agreed to seek legislative change to enable the Registrar to grant full registration, to doctors with provisional registration, without prejudice to any extant fitness to practise investigation, hearing or determination.
  - b. Invited the Registration Reference Group to undertake further work on the test of fitness to practise at the point of full registration, and to report with recommendations.

### **Vote of Thanks**

27. The Council paid tribute to Sir Graeme for his outstanding leadership and contribution to medical regulation, as President, and as Chair of the Council.