

To approve

Minutes of the Meeting on 16 February 2010¹

Present

Professor Peter Rubin, Chair

Professor Jane Dacre
Dr Sam Everington
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 Trudie Roberts
Mrs Ann Robinson
Mrs Enid Rowlands
Dr Mairi Scott
Professor Iqbal Singh
Ms Anne Weyman
Mr Stephen Whittle
Dr Hamish Wilson

Mr Niall Dickson
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>

Chair's Business

1. Apologies for absence were noted from Ms Sally Hawkins, Professor Jim McKillop, and Professor Terence Stephenson.
2. The Chair welcomed Mr Niall Dickson to his first Council meeting since taking up his appointment as Chief Executive and Registrar.
3. The Chair reported:
 - a. Professor Jane Dacre's appointment as Chair of the Equality and Diversity Research Forum.
 - b. Professor Rajan Madhok's appointment as Chair of the Information Services Steering Group, a sub group of the Resources Committee.
4. The Chair advised that:
 - a. He had recently met with Nicola Sturgeon MSP, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well Being; and with Dr Frances Elliot, Chief Executive of NHS Quality Improvement Scotland.
 - b. The programme of visits around the UK to meet with doctors continued, with recent meetings held in Cornwall and Edinburgh.
 - c. He had recently attended the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence's Symposium, which brought the chairs and presidents of the health professions' regulators together to discuss regulatory issues.
 - d. The GMC had recently convened and hosted a meeting of the chairs and presidents of the health professions' regulators to discuss regulatory issues.
 - e. He would be visiting the GMC's new office premises in Manchester early in March 2010; and that the Council meeting on 8 December 2010 would be held in Manchester.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2009

5. Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 9 December 2009 as a true record.

Chief Executive's Report and Review of 2009

6. Council considered the Chief Executive's review of 2009, setting out the main achievements and outcomes for the year, mapped against the key aims in the 2009 Business Plan; and key issues for 2010 and beyond.

7. Council noted:
 - a. Significant progress made during 2009 towards achieving the merger of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board with the GMC, with the project remaining on track to achieve the merger in April 2010; together with ongoing work on the review of the regulation of medical education and training led by Lord Patel.
 - b. Work on the development and publication, following extensive consultation, of a range of new and revised guidance in 2009, including the revised *Tomorrow's Doctors* and *Confidentiality*; and the ongoing review on the guidance on end of life care, due to be completed in 2010.
 - c. The successful introduction of licences to practise on 16 November 2009, with 97.3% of all registered doctors providing confirmation of their licensing decision, and the milestone this represented towards implementing revalidation.
 - d. Ongoing work to assess the pilots on GMC Affiliates, and the positive nature of the feedback reported on the outcome of the pilots in KPMG's final evaluation report, in particular on developing enhanced relationships with employers and better understanding of GMC fitness to practise procedures and ethical guidance.
 - e. Continuing good overall standards of delivery against performance targets in registration and fitness to practise, against increasing levels of activity.
 - f. The achievement of a reduction in the cost of legal services in the order of £3million in 2009, against the agreed target of £1.2million.
 - g. Continuing good progress to ensure the effective implementation of improved information systems.
 - h. The tabled information in Annex E which reported income and expenditure to 31 January 2010.
8. Council also noted that a number of significant activities were ongoing in the forward work programme for 2010 and beyond, and acknowledged the challenges and opportunities that these represented, in particular:
 - a. Preparation for the introduction of revalidation.
 - b. Preparation for the transfer of the adjudication function to the Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator.

- c. Reviewing the GMC's future role in regulating medical education and training, in the light of the merger of PMETB with the GMC, and the work of the Patel Review.
 - d. The continuing high referral rates of cases into the fitness to practise procedures, which has significant implications for delivery of service targets.
 - e. The continuing challenges in clarifying the framework and guidance for referring information to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.
 - f. Ongoing work to ensure that equality and diversity considerations are fully embedded in policy development and operational activity across the organisation.
 - g. Ongoing work, through the evaluation framework and the newly established Performance Board, to ensure that evaluation of performance is carried out across all areas of work, including the assessment of value provided by activities that may be less easy to measure, and identification of opportunities for further business improvement.
9. During the discussion the Chief Executive reported that:
- a. A response had been submitted on Medical Education England's Review of the Impact of the European Working Time Directive on the Quality of Postgraduate Training.
 - b. He had been called to give evidence to the Health Select Committee on 11 March 2010 on the use of overseas doctors in providing out-of-hours services. In the meantime, work would continue on exploring the issue of testing the linguistic competence of EEA doctors, including highlighting employers' responsibilities, and further discussions held with the Department of Health (England) on the current regulatory arrangements.

Consultation on Revalidation

10. Council considered the proposed framework and arrangements for the consultation on revalidation for publication, together with proposals for engagement with key interest groups during the consultation period.
11. Council:
- a. Agreed the framework for the proposed consultation on revalidation.

b. Authorised the Chair of Council and the Chair of the Continued Practice Board to approve the final version of the consultation document for publication; and noted that this would incorporate a number of redrafting proposals suggested by members and from key interests on the UK Revalidation Programme Board.

c. Agreed proposals for engagement throughout the consultation period; and noted that further work to develop the communications and engagement programme would be undertaken, including on key messages and in response to requests from key interest groups following the launch.

Revalidation: Progress Report

12. Council considered a report on the ongoing revalidation work programme, including progress on each of the 12 work streams.

13. Council:

a. Noted the work of the Continued Practice Board in considering revalidation issues, including work on the review of submissions from the medical Royal Colleges on standards and evaluation methods, and the review of the draft revalidation consultation document.

b. Noted the work of the UK Revalidation Programme Board, including an update on the issues considered at its meeting on 8 December 2009, together with proposals for the Pathfinder Pilots which will be undertaken in England during the course of 2010.

GMC Affiliates

14. Council considered the outcome of the final evaluation report of the GMC Affiliates Pilot, and proposals for taking this work forward.

15. Council:

a. Noted the positive nature of the feedback reported on the outcome of the pilots in the evaluation report, including informal feedback from those involved in the work in England and Scotland, in particular on developing enhanced relationships with employers and better understanding of GMC fitness to practise procedures and ethical guidance.

b. Agreed that further piloting of GMC Affiliates within the Revalidation Pathfinder Pilots should be undertaken, in West Midlands Strategic Health Authority, and a collaborative pilot involving Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority with the Deanery.

- c. Agreed to expand the pilot in Scotland.

16. Further evaluation would be carried out to assess the outcome of the further pilots and the effectiveness of these models, and the outcome reported to Council later in 2010.

Joint Co-ordination Group: Progress Report

17. Council received a progress report from the Joint Co-ordination Group on progress towards the merger of PMETB with the GMC.

18. Council:

- a. Noted continuing good progress on preparation for the merger, including on the funding arrangements, legislative process, and on integration activities, including the human resource aspects and other areas of joint work.
- b. Endorsed the assurance provided by the Joint Co-ordination Group that the project to merge PMETB with the GMC is on track.

Merger of PMETB with the GMC: Standards, Policies and Quality Framework

19. Council considered approval of PMETB standards, policies and the Quality Framework to be adopted post merger of PMETB with the GMC, and ongoing work to review and revise PMETB guidance and information in preparation for the merger taking place.

20. Council:

- a. Approved and set as determinations under section 34H of the Medical Act 1983 the standards and requirements in the revised versions of the *Generic standards for Specialty including GP training*, *Standards for curricula and assessment systems*, and *Standards for deaneries*, to apply when the new provisions in the Medical Act 1983 as amended come into force.
- b. Approved the revised version of *The Quality Framework for Specialty including GP training in the UK*, to apply when the new provisions in the Medical Act 1983 as amended come into force.
- c. Noted that the *Operational Guide for the Quality Framework* and other documents and webpages currently available on the PMETB website are being reviewed and revised to be published on the GMC website, to apply when the new provisions in the Medical Act 1983 as amended come into force.

Merger of PMETB with the GMC: Consultation on Draft Rules and Regulations

21. Council received a report on the outcome of the consultation on the draft rules and regulations necessary to support the merger of PMETB with the GMC, and on the process and arrangements agreed for the making of the rules and regulations.

22. Council noted:

a. The report on the outcome of the consultation.

b. That the Chair was authorised to agree to make the rules and regulations on its behalf, and noted that the draft rules and regulations annexed to the paper had been updated since circulation to include minor amendments of a technical nature, and noted the updated versions tabled.

c. That the following rules and regulations were agreed and made when the necessary statutory powers to enable this came into force on 11 February 2010, and that they will come into force on 1 April 2010:

i. The General Medical Council (Award of Certificates) Rules.

ii. The General Medical Council (Applications for General Practice and Specialist Registration) Regulations.

iii. The General Medical Council (Registration Appeals Panel Procedure) Rules.

iv. The General Medical Council (Constitution of Panels and Investigation Committee) (Amendment) Rules.

v. The General Medical Council (Form and Content of the Registers) Regulations.

vi. The General Medical Council (Marking of the General Practitioner Register) Regulations.

Any Other Business

23. Council noted the date of the next meeting on 31 March 2010.