
6b: Arrangements for the Election of Chair of the Council Annex A

Proposed Role of the Chair of the General Medical Council

1. The General Medical Council (Constitution) Order 2008 provides that the Council should appoint as the Chair the member they elect from among their number.
2. The term of office will be determined by the General Council on appointment, but should be for no longer than the date on which their term of office as a member is due to expire (irrespective of whether or not they are thereafter reappointed as a member).
3. The main components of the role are listed below. The Chair will, as appropriate, delegate responsibility for some elements of the role, for example media interviews, to be undertaken by other Council members.

Leadership

4. The Chair should:
 - a. Provide strong non-executive leadership.
 - b. Ensure that the Council's strategic direction is set.
 - c. Encourage openness, transparency and accountability in all that the Council does.
 - d. Ensure that Council works collectively, and that each member puts the interests of the GMC above their own.
 - e. Chair Council meetings effectively, ensuring that required decisions are taken, and ensuring an annual programme of Council meetings with agendas appropriate to the business of the Council.
 - f. Communicate effectively with Council members between meetings to ensure that business is taken forward, and effective contributions made by members in their ambassadorial role.

- g. Provides feedback and guidance to Council members as part of the process for signing off the appraisal process.
- h. Handle any complaints against Council members in line with agreed procedures.
- i. Establish and maintain a close working relationship with the Chief Executive, directors and other staff, as appropriate.

Governance

- 5. The Chair should:
 - a. Ensure that Council monitors the performance of the GMC in line with legal and regulatory compliance requirements.
 - b. Promote and uphold the public interest in all that the GMC undertakes.
 - c. Ensure that Council focuses on governance rather than management.
 - d. Ensure that the GMC's Code of Conduct and other relevant provisions are adhered to by all Council members.

External relationships

- 6. The Chair should:
 - a. Represent the GMC at meetings with Ministers and with Assembly and Parliament members throughout the UK.
 - b. When called upon to do so, account for the GMC's performance to House of Commons Committees or to public inquiries.
 - c. Represent the GMC in meetings with leaders of patient and consumer organisations, leaders of the medical profession, educational leaders and employers, senior figures in other regulatory and public authorities, and other interest groups.
 - d. Undertake media interviews and contribute to media broadcasts.
 - e. Develop partnership working with the Chair of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence and chairs of other healthcare professional regulators.
 - f. Represent the GMC with regulatory authorities in other countries, including the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities.

Internal relationships

7. The Chair should:
 - a. Act as an internal ambassador for the Council, to staff and to GMC associates.
 - b. Work closely with the Chief Executive and directors; and provide a sounding board for discussion of emerging issues.
 - c. Lead, in consultation with the Remuneration Committee, the assessment of the Chief Executive's performance.

Working Practices

8. The role requires extensive day-to-day communication with members, the Chief Executive and staff, particularly by email.
9. Much of the Chair's work will be in London, but there will be meetings and other commitments throughout the UK. There will be occasional invitations to international conferences.