

*To consider*

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

### **Issue**

1. The principles and process that should inform a review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority.

### **Recommendations**

2.

- a. To agree to undertake a fundamental review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority (paragraphs 9-13).
- b. To agree to establish a working group of members and staff to coordinate the review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority, and to report with recommendations (paragraph 14).

### **Further information**

3. If you require further information about this paper, please contact us by email: [gmc@gmc-uk.org](mailto:gmc@gmc-uk.org) or tel. 0161 923 6602

## **Background**

4. Key Aim 10 of the 2009 Business Plan records that we will take steps to enhance our economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The orderly conduct of Council and committee business, and appropriate and effective delegation, contribute to that aim.

5. The Medical Act 1983 empowers Council to agree Standing Orders for meetings and proceedings and the discharge of functions by Council, any committees of the Council, and staff.

6. Our Standing Orders have been reviewed periodically, including in May 2005 when Council approved a consolidated version, together with a Schedule of Delegated Authority.

7. It was intended to undertake a more fundamental overhaul following the 2005-2006 governance review, taking into account further work to develop the principles of delegation. This was deferred in the light of the governance changes set out in the Council's November 2006 package of proposals, as confirmed in the February 2007 White Paper. The aim was to enable the overhaul of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority to reflect the reconstitution of the Council and the commitment to a more board like approach to governance.

8. In the event, for reasons outside our control, the reconstitution of the Council took longer than foreseen.

## **Discussion**

9. We need fit for purpose Standing Orders and an appropriate and comprehensive Schedule of Delegated Authority.

10. We could update and consolidate the existing versions, following much the same models, with appropriate amendments. This was the preferred approach in 2003 and 2005; and it served the purpose sufficiently well.

11. However, in the space of less than six years, Council has reduced from 104 members, through 35 members, to 24 members. There have been fundamental changes in Council's view of its governance responsibilities; and in the relationships between members and staff, and between Council and the other components of the governance structure. We believe that a more fundamental overhaul is required.

12. We will want to build on the strengths of the existing arrangements. However, we will want to consider best practice in other regulators and in other sectors. This would include PMETB's work in developing a Statement on Remit, Values and Objectives.

13. The review would include the purposes of, and delegation to, the governance committees, the three boards and the reference groups. It would encompass the Schedule of Delegated Authority.

**Recommendation:** To agree to undertake a fundamental review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority.

14. It will be important to draw on the expertise and experience of all members. This could be coordinated by a small working group of members and staff, whose purpose would include effective engagement with members in the development of proposals and recommendations to Council.

**Recommendation:** To agree to establish a working group of members and staff to coordinate the review of Standing Orders and the Schedule of Delegated Authority, and to report with recommendations.

15. If Council accepts this paper's recommendation, we will seek expressions of interest from members. We envisage that the group would have two or three members, with two or three members of staff; and that the group would use flexible working methods.

16. The aim would be to complete the work between April and June 2009, with recommendations to Council for the meeting on 8 July 2009.

### **Resource implications**

17. The costs of the working group would be less than £1000. This assumes no more than two meetings.

### **Equality implications**

18. None.