

2 June 2015

Council

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To approve

Minutes of the Meeting on 23 April 2015*

Members present

Terence Stephenson, Chair

Shree Datta
Christine Eames
Michael Farthing
Deirdre Kelly
Suzi Leather

Julian Lee
Jim McKillop
Denise Platt
Enid Rowlands

Others present

Niall Dickson, Chief Executive and Registrar
Susan Goldsmith, Chief Operating Officer
Paul Buckley, Director of Strategy and Communication
Judith Hulf, Senior Medical Adviser and Responsible Officer

Una Lane, Director of Registration and Revalidation
Anthony Omo, Director of Fitness to Practise
Christine Payne, Council Secretary
Neil Roberts, Director of Resources and Quality Assurance

*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 It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Helene Hayman, Ajay Kakkar and Vicky Osgood.

Minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2015

- 2 Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 24 February 2015 as a true record.

Chief Executive's Report

- 3 Council considered the Chief Executive's Report, noting developments in the external environment and progress on our strategy and key outcomes of note from the Strategy and Policy Board meeting on 26 March 2015.
- 4 Council approved amendments to the Governance Handbook relating to the removal of a reference to the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board within the Schedule of Authority, and to change the name of the Revalidation Implementation Advisory Board to the Revalidation Advisory Board.

Chief Operating Officer's Report

- 5 Council considered the Chief Operating Officer's Report, noting:
 - a The commentary on operational performance, including an update on the 2015 efficiency target and progress with the review of performance data reporting.
 - b Key outcomes of note from the Performance and Resources Board meeting on 3 March 2015.
 - c Operational performance and volumes of activity for fitness to practise, registration and certification work, Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board tests, Contact Centre and reception services, and revalidation.
 - d Summary information on current judicial reviews and appeals.
 - e Income and expenditure to the end of February 2015.

Developing the online register

- 6 Council considered an update on proposals to develop the online register to make it more relevant and useful and to keep it up to date with the functions of the GMC.

- 7 Council agreed that work should be undertaken to make a number of uncontroversial additions to the register and explore other options that would require legislative change.
- 8 During the discussion, Council noted that:
 - a Incremental changes should be made to expand the level of detail held on the register, with the aim of improving its usefulness over time.
 - b Care would be taken to only include information on the register that could be validated or that registrants could self-declare, with the distinction between the two made clear.
 - c A report on further options for development of the register would be made to Council later in 2015.

Update on National Licensing Examination

- 9 Council considered an update on work undertaken since September 2014 when it gave approval in principle to explore the possibility of introducing a national licensing examination for all doctors applying to hold a licence to practise in the UK.
- 10 During the discussion, Council noted:
 - a That there was an aspiration to have an assessment process for all doctors wishing to practise medicine in the UK and work would continue in seeking to reach this position.
 - b The importance of ensuring there was clarity of the purpose of the national licensing examination and that this was clearly communicated.
 - c Legal advice would be taken on all aspects of the proposals as they were developed.
 - d That the detail on issues such as possible formats and timing of the examination, the curriculum and the maximum number of allowed attempts would be considered as part of the blueprint for development after the framework of a proposed model had been agreed.
 - e That a business case, including some financial analysis, would be brought to Council as part of consideration of approval to move to Phase 2 of the project at its next meeting on 2 June 2015.

Sanctions Guidance for MPTS fitness to practise panels and GMC decision makers

11 Council considered an update on changes to the GMC's Sanctions Guidance following a public consultation on proposed changes.

12 Council:

a Approved the amended Sanctions Guidance, subject to:

- i** The correction of minor typing errors within the draft Guidance document.
- ii** Making the wording of paragraph 46 of the draft Sanctions Guidance clearer, to say that warnings may be issued in cases where health or knowledge of English is raised as one of a number of factors in a case.

b Noted the future work plan.

Insurance and Indemnity: Changes to the Licence to Practise and Revalidation Regulations 2012

13 Council considered proposals to make amendments to the Licence to Practise and Revalidation Regulations 2012, to bring into effect a new statutory duty on all healthcare professionals to have appropriate insurance or indemnity cover for their practice.

14 Council:

a Agreed to make the amended Regulations which comprised the General Medical Council (Licence to Practise and Revalidation) (Amendment) Regulations Order of Council 2015 (2015 Regulations).

b Authorised the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive to apply the Corporate Seal to the 2015 Regulations.

Any other business

15 Council noted the new style of Council papers with improved navigation features which had been positively received by members.

16 Council noted that the next meeting would be on 2 June 2015, in Manchester.

Confirmed:

Terence Stephenson, Chair

2 June 2015