

7 November 2017

**Council**

*To approve*

**Minutes of the meeting on 28 September 2017\***

**Members present**

Terence Stephenson, Chair

Steven Burnett  
Shree Datta  
Christine Eames  
Michael Farthing  
Anthony Harnden

Helene Hayman  
Deirdre Kelly  
Paul Knight  
Suzi Leather  
Amerdeep Somal

**Others present**

Charlie Massey, Chief Executive and Registrar  
Susan Goldsmith, Chief Operating Officer  
Paul Buckley, Director of Strategy and Communication  
Una Lane, Director of Registration and Revalidation  
Colin Melville, Director of Education and Standards  
Patricia Morrissey, Council Secretary  
Anthony Omo, General Counsel and Director of Fitness to Practise  
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 had been received from Denise Platt.
- 2 The Chair welcomed the following observers to the meeting:
  - a Paul Reynolds, the new Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement, who would join the GMC in January 2018.
  - b Cath Gallagher from MediTalent; Cyan Irwin, a member of the public; and Stephen Cohen, a Council member from the Health and Care Professions Council.
- 3 The Chair reported that Council had approved, on action taken between meetings, the remuneration of the Deputy Chair Council for the period 27 March 2017 to 31 July 2017. Council recorded its thanks to Denise Platt for acting as Deputy Chair and it was noted that, to ensure proper management of the conflict of interest, Denise had exempted herself from consideration of this issue by the Remuneration Committee and Council.
- 4 The Chair clarified that his honorarium was paid directly to University College London and that he did not financially benefit from his role as Chair of the GMC.
- 5 The Chair reported that he had authorised the final version of the *Outcomes for Graduates* consultation which would now launch on 3 October 2017.
- 6 Council noted its congratulations to Niall Dickson, who had been awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to patient care.

## Minutes of the meeting on 7 June 2017

- 7 Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 7 June 2017 as a true record.

## Chief Executive's Report

- 8 Council considered the Chief Executive's Report, noting developments in the external environment and progress on our strategy, including updates on:
  - a The UK Government's intention to maintain the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (RPQ) framework after the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
  - b NHS England and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) plan to recruit an additional 2,000 GPs from abroad to work in the NHS in England by 2020. The GMC was exploring how processes could be streamlined to support this ambition, whilst maintaining rigorous standards of entry onto the medical register. As part of this programme the GMC would review its guidance on the evidence that doctors need to provide to demonstrate the language competence. Discussions were taking place with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Royal College of

Nursing who were also exploring the same issue.

- c** A project in Northern Ireland to identify the range of regulatory issues to be considered arising from the implementation of the Executive's policy to increase cross border delivery of healthcare.
- d** The publication in July 2017 of the UK Shape of Training Steering Group report on the implementation of recommendations from Professor David Greenaway's Shape of Training review, and ongoing work to develop a credentialing pilot in cosmetic surgery with the Royal College of Surgeons of England arising from the report.

## Chief Operating Officer's Report

**9** Council considered the Chief Operating Officer's Report and noted:

- a** The commentary on operational performance.
- b** Operational performance against key performance indicators (KPI) and progress on Council's priorities, including, income and expenditure to the end of August 2017, and that the expenditure was overall £3,141K under budget, mainly driven by operational headcount being significantly lower than forecast.
- c** Summary information on current judicial reviews and appeals.
- d** The Corporate Risk Register and risk appetite statement.
- e** Other operational matters including:
  - i** An update on the performance of GMC Services International and the progress made to date.
  - ii** The GMC's response to the Professional Standards Authority consultation on the Standards for Good Regulation.

**10** During discussion Council noted that the four country implementation plan had been delayed as it represented an essential part of the new Corporate Strategy 2018-2020. Council would be asked to approve the Corporate Strategy at its meeting on 7 November 2017.

## Report on the Medical Licensing Assessment consultation

**11** Council considered:

- a** The overview of the Medical Licensing Assessment consultation process to date.
- b** The report on the public consultation *Securing the licence to practise: introducing a Medical Licensing Assessment*.

**12** During discussion Council noted:

- a** That there was a broad acceptance of the GMC's argument for demonstrating that those applying for registration with a licence to practise medicine in the UK could meet a common threshold for safe practice.
- b** That the consultation response raised a number of points which merited further careful consideration and would be used to frame the next steps.
- c** The views expressed by medical students and concerns around increasing the burden of examinations.
- d** The regional variation in responses and the need to understand concerns raised on this basis and how they might be addressed, including an understanding of any unintended consequences e.g. workforce issues.

**Taking Revalidation Forward – progress update**

**13** Council considered and noted the progress update on Taking Revalidation Forward and the GMC actions outlined in the plan which were scheduled to be completed by June 2018.

**14** During the discussion, Council noted:

- a** That the GMC was already exploring how best to quality assure revalidation appraisals of those doctors without a connection and that this work could, in time, inform the development of a QA tool to be shared more widely to promote good practice.
- b** That while addressing the IS issues many doctors faced with appraisal systems was outside the GMC's remit, consideration would be given to exploring whether the GMC could use its influence to support ways to improve the recording and portability of appraisal information. It was noted that this would be considered by Revalidation Oversight Group going forward.
- c** The challenges with tracking the impact of revalidation, and the need to work collaboratively to identify improvements to patient safety attributable to revalidation or other intervention measures.
- d** That the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges was funding a piece of work by the Royal College of Physicians on patient feedback which could have implications on GMC policy on the timing of patient feedback.

**Any other business**

**15** Council noted the date of its next meeting on 7 November 2017, in London.

Confirmed:

Terence Stephenson, Chair

7 November 2017