

23 February 2017

**Council**

*To approve*

**Minutes of the Meeting on 14 December 2016**\*

**Members present**

Terence Stephenson, Chair

Shree Datta

Michael Farthing

Helene Hayman

Deirdre Kelly

Suzi Leather

Jim McKillop

Denise Platt

Enid Rowlands

**Others present**

Charlie Massey, Chief Executive and Registrar

Susan Goldsmith, Chief Operating Officer

Steven Burnett, Council member designate

Paul Buckley, Director of Strategy and Communication

Anthony Harnden, Council member designate

Paul Knight, Council member designate

Una Lane, Director of Registration and Revalidation

Mary Morgan-Hyland, Council Secretary

Anthony Omo, General Counsel and Director of Fitness to Practise

David Pearl, Chair of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service

Neil Roberts, Director of Resources and Quality Assurance

Caroline Swift, Chair designate of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service

\* 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 Judith Hulf and Christine Eames.
- 2 The Chair welcomed Steve Burnett, Anthony Harnden and Paul Knight who were attending to observe the meeting as part of their induction prior to taking up their appointment as Council members on 1 January 2017. The Chair reported apologies for absence from Amerdeep Somal who would also be taking up her appointment as a Council member from 1 January 2017.
- 3 The Chair paid tribute to Jim McKillop and Enid Rowlands, who would demit office as Council members from 31 December 2016.

### Minutes of the meeting on 29 September 2016

- 4 Council approved the minutes of the meeting on 29 September 2016 as a true record.

### Chief Executive's Report

- 5 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 meetings on 6 October and 1 December 2016.
- 6 During the discussion, Council noted that:
  - a Following the publication of key findings from the 2016 National Training Survey, the Chief Executive had written to Trusts and Boards in the UK reminding them of the GMC's standards for medical education and training, and making clear that the GMC would take action where there was evidence that standards were not being met. Council welcomed the results of the National Training Survey, and acknowledged that the stresses and strains on medical practitioners would not lead to a lowering of the GMC's standards.
  - b Feedback following the GMC Conference on 6 December 2016 had been positive. The Chief Executive noted his thanks to staff who had made it a successful event.
  - c The GMC's Valued Awards for GMC Staff had been held on 30 November 2016, with over 200 nominations having been received for individuals and teams based on the GMC's core organisational values of excellence, fairness, transparency and collaboration.

### Chief Operating Officer's Report

- 7 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 that:
  - i The operational KPI of '2015/16 income and expenditure (% variance)' was rated red due to an actual surplus of £5.8 million compared to a budgeted surplus for the reported period of £1.3 million.
  - ii Council priority 4: 'Medical Licensing Assessment' had moved from being rated green to rated amber due to a delay in the launch of the public consultation.
  - iii Council priority 5: 'Revalidation review' was rated red due to the decision to delay publication of the report from December 2016 to mid-January 2017 to allow sufficient time to engage with key interests before publication.
- c Income and expenditure to the end of October 2016, and that income was in line with budget and expenditure was 5% under budget.
- d Summary information on current judicial reviews and appeals.
- e Key outcomes of note from the Performance and Resources Board meetings on 27 September and 1 November 2016.
- f That the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) was expected to consider its annual performance report on the GMC at a Panel meeting on 19 December 2016. Council noted that the PSA's report on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) had recently been published, and that the NMC had failed the fitness to practise standard due to the time taken for cases.
- g That Service Level Agreements, Key Performance Indicators and project risks would be reviewed in early 2017.
- h The Chief Operating Officer reported that it had been a challenging year for the GMC due to pressures in the external environment and delivery of the change programme, but that it had also been a busy and successful year.

### **Report of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service Committee**

- 8 Council considered a report from the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) Committee, setting out the key achievements of the MPTS since it was established in June 2012.

- 9 The Chair paid tribute to David Pearl, Chair of the MPTS, who would demit office on 31 December 2016, and to Howard Matthews, Assistant Director of the MPTS, who would retire in January 2017.
- 10 Council welcomed Dame Caroline Swift who was attending to observe the meeting as part of her induction prior to taking up the appointment of Chair of the MPTS on 1 January 2017.
- 11 David Pearl noted his thanks to the GMC, Terence Stephenson, and to Peter Rubin as former Chair of Council, for their support during his time as Chair of the MPTS.
- 12 During the discussion, Council noted that:
  - a In its first full year of operation in 2013 the MPTS expenditure was £10.2 million, and through a successful programme of efficiency savings was expecting to operate in 2017 to a budget of £9.4 million.
  - b 45% of tribunal members were female, and 18% identified as being black or minority ethnic (BME), which compared favourably with recently published statistics in relation to UK courts.
  - c The Doctor Support Group pilot started in mid-2016, which provided additional support to doctors if required during a hearing, as part of a programme of work to further support self-represented and vulnerable doctors. Council noted that an evaluation of the service would be undertaken in the future to examine whether changes might be required.
  - d It might be possible in the future to consider options for sharing of resources with other regulators, including training for tribunal members in chairmanship skills, the sharing of facilities, and secondment of staff.

### **Business Plan and Budget 2017**

- 13 Council considered the draft business plan, budget and capital programme for 2017, and proposals to reduce the transaction charge on credit card payments from 1.5% to 1.2%.
- 14 Council:
  - a Approved the 2017 business plan, budget and capital programme.
  - b Noted that there would be no increase in fees in 2017.
  - c Agreed the revised GMC Registration Fees Regulations to enable reduced transaction charges on all credit card payments from 1 April 2017.

- 15 During the discussion, Council noted that the narrative in the business plan would be amended to include the GMC's oversight of UK medical education and training, and acknowledgement of existing pressures within the system.

### **Report of the Audit and Risk Committee**

- 16 Council considered the report of the Audit and Risk Committee's activities since its last report on 7 June 2016, noting that the Committee had recommended no changes to its Statement of Purpose.

### **Report of the Remuneration Committee**

- 17 Council considered the report of the Remuneration Committee's activities since its last report on 10 December 2015, noting that the Committee had recommended no changes to its Statement of Purpose.

### **Report of Sir Keith Pearson's Review of Revalidation**

- 18 Council noted a report on Sir Keith Pearson's independent review of revalidation, *Taking revalidation forward*, and noted that the report would be published alongside a response from the GMC in January 2017.

### **Confidentiality Guidance**

- 19 Council noted a report on the revised *Confidentiality* guidance and associated explanatory statements, and the process by which they were reviewed.
- 20 Council noted that it had agreed on action taken between meetings to:
- a Approve the revised *Confidentiality* guidance and explanatory statements for publication in January 2017.
  - b Approve the explanatory statement on gun shots and knife wounds.
  - c Note the plans for launch and implementation of the guidance.

### **Any other business**

- 21 Council noted the date of its next meeting on 23 February 2017, in London.