



Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), is a statutory body constituted under the Pharmacy Act, and is the pharmacy regulator in Ireland. The PSI is governed by a 21 member Council, appointed by the Minister for Health. The Council is responsible for ensuring the delivery of the functions of the PSI.

Consistent with other health regulators, in accordance with section 10 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 (the Act), the PSI Council is made up of:

- 11 persons who are not pharmacists, and
- 10 pharmacists, nine of whom are pharmacists elected by registered pharmacists.

Section 10 of the [Pharmacy Act](#) specifically sets out the categories and skills of persons to be appointed to the Council. The varied membership of the Council is intended to ensure valuable, comprehensive and relevant expertise is available within the Council in carrying out its statutory functions.

Council members serve a four year term of office, commencing on the date of appointment by the Minister.

The Role of Council Members

Obligations and Responsibilities

The principal function of the PSI is to regulate the profession and practice of pharmacy having regard to the need to protect, maintain and promote the health and safety of the public. The PSI's purpose is to ensure that pharmacy services are delivered in a competent, professional and ethical manner and in an appropriate environment, to the highest standards of quality care and best practice, and well-being of patients and the public.

[The Pharmacy Act](#) sets out the principal functions and duties of the PSI. Members appointed to the PSI Council act in the public interest to ensure that the statutory functions of the PSI, to regulate the profession and practice pharmacy, are effectively performed.

Council members:

- provide leadership and strategic direction in delivery of the PSI's statutory functions to regulate the pharmacy sector and ensure compliance with the Pharmacy Act 2007 and with all statutory and legal obligations,

- have statutory and fiduciary duties in discharging PSI functions,
- are collectively responsible for decisions as powers and responsibilities of Council are exercised jointly,
- as a Council, are accountable to the Minister for Health and to the Oireachtas in ensuring that the PSI's statutory functions are effectively carried out.

Details of PSI responsibilities, procedures and Council accountabilities are set out in the PSI's [Corporate Governance Framework and the Code of Conduct for Council members](#). The [PSI \(Council\) Rules 2008](#) (S.I. 492 of 2008) provides specific provision for selection of members for appointment to Council, election of a President and Vice-President, and general requirements for how Council governs, conducts meetings and delegates its functions.

Council Meetings

The Council is required under the Act to meet at least four times annually. In practice Council meets at least six times annually and Council members are expected to attend in person or by conference call if required. Currently the meetings typically commence at 8.30 am and run for the full working day. Council members are expected to be in attendance for the entire Council meeting. These meetings are held in PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin.

Documentation is provided in advance of meetings, and in order to effectively contribute at these meetings, Council members can expect to spend at least one day in preparation for each meeting.

Owing to the breadth of functions overseen by the PSI, discussion and documentation considered by the Council is very varied. Council meetings are held in public, however all matters relating to the Council's role in the PSI's statutory disciplinary functions are considered in private session.

The PSI's [Corporate Strategy](#) and annual Service Plan determine the Council's key objectives on a yearly basis. In line with its functions, Council work includes decision and consideration of matters concerning pharmacist registration; education and training; professional standards and guidance for the profession; policy; organisation strategy; Committee member and other appointments; and financial and governance supervision. The agenda and minutes of public Council meetings are made available on the [PSI website](#).

Council also has a significant role in the statutory complaints and disciplinary process (fitness to practise) operated by the PSI in accordance with Part 6 of the Act. The Council's role in disciplinary matters is prescribed by the Act, and is carried out in accordance with the principles of natural justice and fair procedures. The Council has a statutory role at various stages of a complaint cycle to include taking decisions regarding further action in respect of certain complaints, and in the imposition of sanctions. This work is carried out in private.

Council delegates some of its functions to its [Advisory Committees](#) and to the Registrar who report to Council. It is expected that Council members also participate as a member of one to two Committees.

The Council is supported in its work by the Executive of the PSI, and ongoing internal and external training is provided to Council members to assist them in the performance of their statutory role.

Council members participate in a number of training days per year, including induction for new members.

The contribution of Council members is acknowledged by payment, as approved by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, to all those who are not already engaged in the public service. Expenses may also be claimed for travel and overnight expenditure incurred in undertaking Council business.

Further information, including the various areas of responsibility of the PSI, can be found in the relevant section of the PSI website www.thepsi.ie.