

Minutes of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee Meeting held virtually on 17 February 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

Agenda Item A - Apologies

Name		Present (Yes/No)
Ms Joanne Kissane (Chair)		Y
Prof Brian Kirby		Y
Ms Marie Louisa Power		N
Ms Grainne Power		Y
Mr Sean Reilly		N
Ms Ann Sheehan		N
Mr Paul Turpin		Y
Members of PSI staff in attendance:		
Mr Dan Burns (for part)		
Ms Marie Bjerborg (for part)		
Ms Éilis Crimmins		
Dr Lorraine Horgan		
Ms Aoife Mellett		
Ms Úna Ní Chárthaigh		
The Chair provided apologies for Sean Reilly and Marie Louisa Power.		

Agenda Item B – Declaration of Interests

Issue
The Chair invited members of the Committee to declare any conflicts of interest regarding any of the items scheduled for discussion at the meeting before it commenced.
Information
There were no declarations of interest from Committee members.

Agenda Item C – Approval of meeting agenda

Issue

The Committee was asked if they were content to proceed with the meeting as per the agenda.

Information

A copy of the meeting agenda had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee agreed to proceed with the meeting agenda.

Agenda Item D – Approval of Minutes**Issue**

Approval of the Minutes of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee meeting held on 26 November 2021

Information

The Chair noted that the draft minutes of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2021 had been circulated to Committee members in advance of the meeting. Prior to the meeting, a Committee member requested that the minutes of agenda item L reflect regulatory burden as one aspect of the workforce planning project. This update was made, and the Committee was provided with the updated November minutes before the meeting.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 26 November, on the proposal of Paul Turpin and seconded by Grainne Power.

Agenda Item E – Approval of Committee Terms of Reference**Issue**

The Committee was provided with an updated Committee Terms of Reference in advance of the meeting.

Information

The Committee was informed that the Committee's Terms of Reference is updated when the need arises and has been updated in light of a recommendation made by Better Boards. The Chair advised the Committee that the changes made to its Terms of Reference for 2022 are due to an overlap of work it had previously overseen with certain activities now proposed to be overseen by the Special Purposes Committee. The Committee was informed that it will no longer oversee fitness to practise projects, as this will now sit under the remit of the Special Purposes Committee.

Under the updated Terms of Reference, the Committee was also informed that the maximum membership of the Committee has increased to ten. This increase will facilitate circumstances where there is a need for particular expertise on the Committee, which can not be fulfilled by a Council member.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee approved the updated Terms of Reference on the proposal of Paul Turpin and seconded by Brian Kirby.

Agenda Item F – Approval of Committee Workplan for 2022

Issue

A proposed Workplan for 2021 had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting.

Information

The Chair noted the removal of the “Updated Publication of Sanctions Guidance Document” from its workplan due to the Committee’s updated Terms of Reference. The Chair advised the Committee that the Governance and Accountability Standards project was moved to the Community Pharmacy Assurance business area, which was reflected in the Workplan. The updated Workplan was provided to Committee in advance of the meeting. The Committee discussed its Workplan for 2022 and noted the ambitious amount of work to be carried out in 2022.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee approved the Committee’s Workplan for 2022 on the proposal of Grainne Power and seconded by Brian Kirby.

Agenda Item G – Update on Response to COVID-19

Issue

The Committee was provided with an update on the PSI response to COVID-19.

Information

The Committee was provided with an update on the PSI’s response to COVID-19. The Committee was informed of the total number of COVID-19 vaccines administered by community pharmacies to date. It was highlighted that 50% of all vaccines had been administered in December 2021 and January 2022. The Committee noted the significant contribution of community pharmacy to the roll-out of booster vaccines and that approximately 700 pharmacies had been involved in administering COVID-19 vaccines. The Committee discussed the important role that community pharmacy will play in the ongoing booster campaign in the coming months. The Committee discussed the need for future planning in this area, more time for training staff and longer lead-in times in providing information to pharmacies. The Committee was informed that the PSI continues to participate in the weekly meetings of the HSE’s vaccination working group. The Committee was advised that the

PSI will continue to participate in the Community Pharmacy Planning Forum; that the forum's Terms of Reference has been broadened to facilitate discussion on a broader range of issues relevant to community pharmacy, such as Sláintercare and e-pharmacy.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

Update noted by Committee.

Agenda Item H – 2022 Workplan Project Health Cards

Issue

The Committee was provided with an update on the projects in its 2022 Committee Workplan. The health cards were provided to Committee in advance of the meeting.

Information

H.1. Assess emerging risks to the continued availability of a professional pharmacy workforce within community and hospital pharmacy

The Committee was informed of the project aims; to define the problem, identify contributing factors and any risks to the continued availability of a professional pharmacy workforce within community and hospital pharmacy in Ireland. The project is at an early stage but is intended to generate proposals and recommendations to address identified risks. Stakeholder engagement will take place at certain stages throughout the project. The Committee discussed the potential issues that may arise, including that some recommendations may not be within the remit of the PSI. However, these recommendations will be referred to the appropriate organisation to action; once identified.

The Committee discussed the workforce issue generally and the challenges facing the pharmacy sector. The Committee was advised that while the pharmacy sector was facing workforce issues in the immediate term, this project was separate from that issue and would take a more medium to long term view. The PSI has made itself available to assist stakeholders separately on the current workforce market issues.

H.2. Review the CPD Model for pharmacists and develop a CPD model for Pharmaceutical Assistants

The Committee was advised that a review of the CPD Model for Pharmacists will be commissioned, following which a report will be drafted, taking into consideration the outcome and recommendations from the review. Implementation of the recommendations arising from the review of the CPD model will commence in 2023.

Research will be conducted in Q2, informing the CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants. Feedback will be sought from stakeholders, informing the development of a proposed CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants. The Committee was informed that a draft CPD Model for Pharmaceutical Assistants will be presented to Council in Q4.

H.3. Revise the current Third Country Qualification Route leading to registration as a pharmacist

The Committee was provided with an update on the implementation of the TCQR policy adopted by the PSI Council in September 2019. The Committee was informed that a change to the Registration Rules may be needed prior to rolling out the updated TCQR route.

H.4. Adopt revised Core Competency Framework (CCF) for Pharmacists

The Committee was informed that the review of the CCF is on track, and there has been good engagement with the project working group. The Committee was advised that a draft revised CCF is currently on track to be presented to Committee at its April meeting.

H.5. Define and move towards a more effective regulatory model for community pharmacies

The Committee was informed that a position paper on the regulation of pharmacies is currently being drafted and finalised. This paper will be presented to Committee at its March meeting.

H.6. Advance reform of the Pharmacy Act 2007

The Committee was informed that a position paper on 'the need for reform of the Pharmacy Act' is currently being drafted and finalised. This paper will be presented to Committee at its March meeting.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

Updates noted by Committee.

Agenda Item I – Update on FMD

Issue

The Committee was provided with a presentation on the Falsified Medicines Directive.

Information

The Committee was updated on the scanning activity in January and February 2022 and the number of pharmacies contacted by the PSI who have no reported scanning activity.

The Committee was informed that the Executive would continue with its regulatory approach to FMD and engage, explain, and encourage pharmacy compliance with FMD. Enforcement will follow if non-engagement continues after the 'use and learn' period has ended.

The Committee was made aware of ongoing discussions around FMD alert management. It was also noted that further resources may be needed to assist with the work involved in FMD should further responsibilities be given to PSI.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

Update noted by Committee.

Agenda Item J – Update on the National Veterinary Prescription System

Issue

The Committee was provided with a verbal update on the National Veterinary Prescription System.

Information

The Committee was informed that online prescription and dispensing applications are supported by a database for prescribing and dispensing veterinary medicines for food-producing animals. This is being captured through a digital platform.

The Committee was advised that the platform is currently in a pilot phase. Phase two will commence in March, which will involve an increase in the prescribing cohort and all dispensing outlets. Phase three will commence in April and will involve all veterinary practitioners.

The Committee was informed that the PSI is seeking feedback from the Department of Agriculture on phase one. The Committee was also advised that the Executive will seek further clarification on recent correspondence between the PSI and the Department of Agriculture.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

Update noted by Committee.

Agenda Item M – AOB and Plus-Delta**Issue**

Any other business and Plus Delta feedback.

Information

The Chair informed Committee that the March meeting of the Committee would consist of several important agenda items and encouraged attendance. The Chair requested the Executive inquire with Committee members about their availability to attend the March meeting.

Plus Delta**Plus +**

Good lively discussion.

Delta Δ

The meeting concluded at: 11.36am

Signed by:

Chair

Date