

**Minutes of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee Meeting held in hybrid format on Microsoft Teams, and in PSI House on 22 September 2022.**

**Agenda Item A - Apologies**

Name		Present (Yes/No)
Ms Joanne Kissane (Chair)		N
Prof Brian Kirby (Acting Chair)		Y
Ms Marie Louisa Power		Y
Ms Grainne Power		Y
Mr Sean Reilly		Y
Ms Ann Sheehan		Y
<b>Members of PSI staff in attendance:</b>		
<i>Mr John Bryan</i>		
<i>Mr Pádraig Corbett</i>		
<i>Ms Éilis Crimmins</i>		
<i>Dr Lorraine Horgan</i>		
<i>Ms Aoife Mellett</i>		
<i>Ms Ailbhe Rogers</i>		
<i>Ms Andrea Boland</i>		
<i>Ms Elizabeth O'Halloran</i>		
<i>Ms Emma Pierce</i>		
<i>Ms Sinéad Monaghan</i>		
The Meeting commenced at 10.05am.		

**Agenda Item B – Declaration of Interests**

Issue
The Acting 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

The Committee had no conflict of interests to declare.

### **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 09 June 2022.

#### Information

The Acting Chair noted that the draft minutes of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee Meeting held on 09 June 2022 had been circulated to Committee members in advance of the meeting.

#### Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 09 June 2022, on the proposal of Ann Sheehan and seconded by Marie Louisa Power.

### **Agenda Item E – 2022 Work Plan Project – Revise the current Third Country Qualification Registration (TCQR) route leading to registration as a pharmacist**

#### Issue

The Committee was informed that a revised Third Country Qualification Recognition (TCQR) route policy had been approved by Council in 2019. This project was placed on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic but work on the project was re-initiated in January 2022.

#### Information

The Committee was informed that a report had been carried out by an expert with appropriate expertise in pharmacy education, accreditation and regulation and that a draft implementation of PSI policy on the TCQR Route had been developed.

The Committee were asked to consider the following for recommendation to Council:

1. Proposed five stages for the revised TCQR route, which would include a holistic assessment, adaptation placement, and examination.
2. Proposed amendments to PSI (Registration) Rules 2008 (S.I. No. 494 of 2008) as amended, to give effect to the implementation of the policy.
3. Proposed changes to the TCQR route fee structure in the PSI (Fees) Rules 2014 to 2020.

A discussion took place surrounding the management and outsourcing of the adaptation period panel of assessors. The Committee agreed that the rules surrounding the decision-making process and reporting structure should be robust, carefully managed, re-assessed on a regular basis and adapted as necessary.

#### Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The Committee agreed that it was satisfied to recommend to Council that the proposed amendments to the PSI (Registration) Rules be approved at its meeting on 6 October 2022 for public consultation, on the proposal of Louisa Power and seconded by Ann Sheehan.

#### **Agenda Item F – 2022 Work Plan Project – Assess emerging risks to the continued availability of a professional pharmacy workforce within community and hospital pharmacy**

#### Issue

The Committee were informed that PSI is aware through reports from stakeholders, of an increasing risk to the continued availability of a pharmacist workforce, with the concern being that the issue may be exacerbated into the future. In response, the PSI is undertaking a project, due to run across 2022-23: 'Emerging Risks to the Future Pharmacy Workforce'.

#### Information

The Committee were informed that a successful procurement exercise has been completed and a tenderer will shortly be appointed as the external expert who will assist PSI with this project.

The Committee were informed that a Working Group has been established which will include representatives from a wide range of key stakeholders who will provide input and ideas from diverse perspectives. It will also include a practising pharmacist who is being appointed through an Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

The Committee were also informed that a call for Expression of Interest for pharmacists and students of pharmacy to participate in focus groups has been issued. It is intended to convene five focus groups, one for each of the following roles:

- Superintendent pharmacists
- Supervising pharmacists
- Support pharmacists and locum pharmacists
- Hospital pharmacists
- Pharmacy students in their final year of study

#### Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The update was noted by the Committee.

#### **Agenda Item G – RPB Standards update presentation**

##### Issue

The RPB Standards Project was initiated in 2018. However, it was put on hold in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the development of COVID-19 Operational Standards for Pharmacies. The project was re-initiated in mid-2022.

##### Information

The Committee were informed that there are three phases to the project:

- Scoping - (Literature review & stakeholder engagement)
- Development - (Draft standards, focus groups & public consultation)
- Approval - (ELT, PSI Council, Minister & publication)

Moving forward, the agreed actions for Quarter 4 2022 and Quarter 1 2023 include:

- To create an internal steering group
- To create a standards advisory group
- To review principal standards

#### Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The update was noted by the Committee.

#### **Agenda Item H – Update on next steps regarding the COVID-19 Emergency Provisions as set out in S.I. 98 and S.I. 99 of 2020**

##### Issue

The Committee were provided with an update on the Department of Health's intention to revoke the COVID-19 Emergency Provisions as set out in S.I. 98 and S.I. 99 of 2020.

##### Information

The Committee were informed that PSI submitted a joint position statement with the Medical Council to the Department of Health on proposals to introduce amendments to the legislation on a more permanent basis to ensure continuity of care for patients. PSI is currently working on a draft risk assessment on the proposed practice change at the request of the Department.

#### Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested

The update was noted by the Committee.

## **Agenda Item I - Quarterly update on IOP operations and developments**

### **Issue**

The Committee were provided with a report on the activities of the Irish Institute of Pharmacy's (IOP) operations and developments for Quarter 2 of 2022.

### **Information**

Three PSI/IOP operations meetings have taken place so far in 2022. The fourth is scheduled to take place in October 2022. A PSI/IOP bi-annual strategy meeting took place in July, with the second scheduled to occur in December 2022.

The outcomes of the ePortfolio Review 2021/22 were included in the update and the Committee were informed that the re-scheduled April 2022 Practice Review is due to take place in October 2022. The Practice Review Policy has been reviewed and no changes were made to the policy. This policy will be put before Council at its meeting on 6 October.

An updated report relating to the IOP's accredited or delivered training programmes was provided, as well as a summary of the IOP's continued engagement activities and COVID-19 supports available.

### **Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested**

The update was noted by the Committee.

## **Agenda Item J—Report on ongoing work on COVID-19 response**

### **Issue**

The Committee were provided with an update on PSI's ongoing engagements with stakeholders regarding COVID-19.

### **Information**

Weekly meetings with the HSE were highlighted, as well as the pharmacist's role in the rollout of the vaccines and booster campaigns. As of September 2022, 1,080,871 COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in Ireland. The Committee were informed that newly authorised adapted COVID-19 vaccines will be used for the booster campaign and PSI were in the process of assessing the NIO training, as training appropriate for pharmacists. The Committee were also informed that the HSE's PharmaVax system would be used for the recording of Influenza and Pneumococcal vaccines supplied and administered in pharmacies.

### **Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested**

The update was noted by Council.

## **Agenda Item K – 2022 Work Plan Projects – Project Health Card updates**

### **Issue**

Updates were provided to the Committee on:

- a) The reform of the Pharmacy Act
- b) The review of the CPD model for pharmacists
- c) The development of a CPD model for pharmaceutical assistants
- d) The adoption of a revised Core Competency Framework for pharmacists

### **Information**

a) The Committee received an update on the PSI Position paper on the need for reform of the Pharmacy Act which was approved by Council and submitted to the Department of Health. The project team are currently working on an approach to developing policy-based proposals for reform which will be discussed and agreed with the Department. A further update will be provided to Committee at its next meeting.

b) Procurement is currently underway to source the expert external provider who will carry out the review of the CPD model for pharmacists. It is hoped that this process will be completed by the autumn and we will have another update for Committee at its December meeting.

c) Meetings with potential external experts have been conducted. Procurement documentation has been issued to external interested parties and the deadline for submission of responses is 21 September 2022. An evaluation panel to evaluate responses is being established. As an interim measure, an online continued registration self-declaration, regarding engagement in appropriate CPD and maintenance of competence, will be introduced while the model is being developed.

d) At its meeting on 23 June 2022, Council approved the revised draft CCF for public consultation. The public consultation took place between 21 July 2022 and 18 August 2022. Fifty responses were received via the online survey and four responses were received via email. The responses received during the public consultation are currently being considered and a revised CCF will be presented to RPP and Council for publication at their meetings on 1 and 15 December 2022 respectively. Meetings with relevant stakeholders regarding the implementation of a revised CCF have commenced and are ongoing.

### **Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested**

The update was noted by Council.

## **Agenda Item L – AOB and Plus-Delta**

### **Issue**

Any other business and Plus Delta feedback.

**Information**

It was requested by the Committee that a reminder be sent out to all pharmacists reminding them of their responsibilities in operating on the Internet Supply List.

**Plus Delta****Plus +****Delta Δ**

**The meeting concluded at: 12.30 pm**

**Signed by:**

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**Chair**

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**Date**