

Minutes for Public Council Meeting No. 40
Wednesday 19th September 2012 at 9.30am
10-12 Hogan Place, Dublin 2

The Public session of the 40th meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, was held at 9.30am on Wednesday 19th September 2012 at 10-12 Hogan Place, Dublin 2.

Present:

resent: Mr. P. Fahey (President), Mr. E. Hanly (Vice President), Mr. J. Brophy, Ms. L. Clarke, Mr. J. Collins, Mr. J. Corr, Ms. M. Doherty, Dr. A. Frankish, Mr. A. Horan, Ms. I. Kelleher, Ms. M. Ní Longaín, Mr. F. Murphy, Mr. F. O’Cuinneagáin, Prof. C. O’Driscoll Mr. K. O’ Hourihane and Mr. N. Stenson.

PSI staff: Ms. C. McGoldrick (Acting Registrar), Ms. L. Crimin, Ms. D. Gaughan, Ms. C. Hogg, Dr. L. Horgan, Mr. T. McGuinn, Ms. D O Halloran, Mr. S O hAodha Mr. T. Reilly, Ms K. O’Flaherty.

1. Apologies

Prof. K. McDonald, Prof. C. O’Boyle, Ms. R. Purcell, Dr. J. Holohan, Ms. D Larkin.

2. Declaration of Interests

The President referred to item 2 in the Council Agenda and reminded the Council members present of their responsibilities in this regard.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacy Act 2007, deals with the necessary disclosure of certain interests by members of the Council and by members of its various committees. Those requirements are also reflected in the Code of Conduct adopted for Council members which also requires that they “be honest and open with regard to conflicts of interest (either real or perceived). Members must not use their position for personal gain in either business, political or social relationships. Therefore, a member who has, or may be perceived to have, such a personal interest in a particular matter under consideration should declare that interest, withdraw from all discussions relating to it and take no part in any vote on such matter.”

A copy of paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Act, relating to the disclosure of certain interests is therefore included and all members of the Committee are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with its contents.

3. Draft Minutes of Public Council meeting No. 39 held on 27th July 2012

The minutes of meeting No. 39 were unanimously approved on the proposal of Ms. L Clarke and seconded by Ms. I Kelleher.

3.1 Registrar’s Report

Ms. Ciara McGoldrick presented the Registrar’s Report and briefly outlined the key areas of work ongoing in the various units and the half year financial position. She also advised that the current 3 year Corporate Strategy expires at the end of 2012 and that tenders will be issued shortly in relation to the development of the next Corporate Strategy. The Council agreed that the next Corporate Strategy should be for a period of 5 years subject to a mid-term review.

3.2 Seasonal influenza vaccination training programmes for the 2012-2013 season (Acting Registrar):

- **Consideration of the accreditation report(s) from the designated accrediting body (School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Dublin, Trinity College)**
- **Approval of course(s) of training for purposes of regulation 4B (a) of the Medicinal Products**

(Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

- **Recognition of those bodies who may issue certificates for purposes of regulation 4B(a) of the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003 (as amended).**

The accreditation report submitted by Council's designated body (The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Dublin Trinity College) in connection with its accreditation of the 'Boots Winter Flu Vaccination Service training Programme for Pharmacists (Ireland 2012)' was considered and endorsed by Council.

The course of training to be provided by Boots Retail (Ireland) Ltd for the purposes of 4B (a) of the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003 (as amended) was approved by Council on the basis of the accreditation provided by the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Dublin, Trinity College as the Council's designated accrediting body.

Pursuant to regulation 4B (a) as inserted into the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations 2003 by the Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, Boots Retail (Ireland) Ltd was recognized by Council for the purposes of issuing the certificate prescribed in that regulation.

Council also agreed that the approval of the course of training and the duration of the recognition of Boots Retail (Ireland) Ltd. as a body that may issue certificates under the above-mentioned regulation is for the 2012-13 Winter Flu Season only.

Council noted that the Boots Retail (Ireland) Ltd. approved vaccination training programme for the 2012-2013 Winter Influenza season only trains pharmacists on adrenaline administration via the intramuscular route and not by the subcutaneous route. Council was informed of the basis for this departure from the required content and it was noted that in the event that Boots Retail (Ireland) Ltd. wishes to switch to a subcutaneous adrenaline formulation during the 2012-2013 flu season, an appropriate training programme will have to be approved and undertaken.

In light of the timing of the confirmation in 2012 by the National Immunisation Office of the 'at-risk' groups to be vaccinated by pharmacists, it was agreed that the PSI would issue a letter to the HSE and the National Immunisation Office outlining the suggestion that an earlier indication of patient cohorts would be helpful in order to facilitate the incorporation of this information into pharmacist training content which should ideally be in development as soon as the previous flu season has ended.

3.3 Implementation of Pharmacy Education & Accreditation Reviews (PEARs) Project Recommendations

3.3.1 Interim Final Year Programme Arrangements for (1) 2013-2014 and (2) 2014-2017/Integrated Degree Planning (Mr. Noel Stenson)

Prof. Cairiona O Driscoll, Head of School of Pharmacy UCC declared a conflict of interest, excused herself and left the room.

Mr. Noel Stenson presented an update to Council on the implementation of the PEARs Report recommendations. The presentation outlined the legislative background to the educational reform programme, the rationale for the introduction of the fully integrated degree, an outline of the implementation planning process and its current status, an overview of the next steps to be undertaken to progress the implementation of the five-year fully integrated degree and a background to the steps required to phase out the 4+1 model (i.e. the interim fifth year programme).

Ms. Michelle Ni Longáin declared a conflict of interest in relation to comments concerning placements at a particular hospital. She excused herself and left the room for that part of the discussion that concerned this hospital and returned once that aspect of the discussion concluded.

A discussion ensued relating to the implementation process. It was noted that the placement providers would require information on the expectations of their contribution to the experiential learning elements

of the integrated degree and that progress in this regard was necessary. Council noted that programme development by the schools of pharmacy was necessary in order to make progress in this regard.

The issue of placement provision in hospital settings was also raised. Council noted that the conversion of current intern positions to basic grade pharmacist positions, while disadvantageous for the current 4+1 model, was not an obstacle to the delivery of the fully integrated model.

The following decisions were unanimously agreed by Council:

- Council was circulated with correspondence between the RCSI and the PSI dated 18 and 19 September 2012 relating to an extension of the 2009 contract with the RCSI relating to 'the provision of an interim in-service practical training programme together with certain related services'. As this agreement ends in 2013, the Council is required to put in place arrangements for the September 2013 cohort of students who will be commencing their fifth and final year of education and training. In this regard, Council directed the Acting Registrar to seek to secure one further year to this agreement with the RCSI on the basis of the same terms and conditions. The decision to seek the additional year to the term of the contract is on the basis of the urgency in providing all current fourth year pharmacy students and all prospective tutors with reasonable notice of the requirements for next year's internship year. Council agreed to seek the additional year to the agreement with the RCSI on the basis of the recent decision by the Minister for Health to approve an increased application fee of €2,250 per student for 2012 entry. Council noted that the agreement had been signed with the RCSI following the procurement process in 2009 for a fee of €1,500. A decision in this regard would be required as soon as possible and by 26 September 2012 at the latest.

In the event that the RCSI cannot agree to deliver the additional year on this basis, the Acting Registrar may then initiate a public procurement exercise to be completed in the shortest timeframe possible to deliver the final year of education and training for the period during which the 4+1 model is to be phased out. Council further agreed that the successful tenderer for the interim programme delivery should be contractually required to commit to the introduction of a five-year fully integrated degree as part of the contract.

Council was highly complimentary of the professionalism and the vision displayed by the RCSI in its approach to the development, delivery and management of the NPIP since its introduction in 2009.

The decision to seek the extension of the RCSI contract for one year was unanimously approved by Council. The decision to seek tenders on the open market should the extension with RCSI not be feasible for the interim period was also unanimously approved by Council

Action: Acting Registrar

- Council was requested to consider the arrangements required for delivery of the final year programme of education and training during the phasing out of the 4+1 model. In the event that RCSI is agreeable to delivering the additional year as set out above, Council would be agreeable to the delivery by the schools of pharmacy through their proposed consortium arrangement of the fifth year programme, on behalf of Council, subject to the schools simultaneously commencing the delivery of the fully integrated degree to all of their first year students.

In the event of that a public procurement exercise is necessary with immediate effect (see above) or that the schools are not in a position to commence delivery of the fully integrated programme, Council unanimously agreed that a public procurement would be necessary to seek a provider of the final year programme pending the introduction of the integrated degree.

Council unanimously supported the Acting Registrar's proposed next steps in seeking to engage with the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education & Skills, with the senior management in the higher education institutions to agree the timeline for the implementation of the fully integrated degree, with tutors and practice placement providers. Council also agreed that ongoing liaison with stakeholders should be pursued and the Office of Experiential Learning be established as soon as possible.

Action: Acting Registrar

- The Council unanimously agreed to re-affirm its policy position that the delivery of a final year as part of the phasing out of the 4+1 model of pharmacy education and training by the schools of pharmacy must be contingent on the simultaneous commencement by the same schools of an integrated degree.

Action: Acting Registrar

3.3.2 Update on activities of the National Forum for Pharmacy Education & Accreditation

Ms. Marian Shanley highlighted the main points from her report to the Council on the activities of the National Forum for the last quarter. Of note was the stress-testing carried out by PA Consulting in association with the schools of pharmacy on the figures contained in the funding analysis but it was noted that PA's final report has not yet been submitted.

The establishment by the heads of the schools of pharmacy of the 'Forum of the Heads of the Schools of Pharmacy (Ireland)' was noted by Council as a positive development. The Council also noted that the Heads of Schools fully agree with the concept of integrated education and see the value of an integrated degree but they have been unable, to date, to commit to a delivery/start date.

3.4 Exemptions

Prof. Caitriona O Driscoll rejoined the meeting for this agenda item.

3.4.1 Guidance on consideration of exemptions in relation to the PSI accredited programmes of education and training to qualify as a pharmacist

Following a recommendation from the Professional Development & Learning Committee, Council approved the policy guidance for consideration of exemptions in relation to the PSI-accredited programmes of education and training to qualify as a pharmacist.

Mr. Stenson informed Council that comments in relation to the guidance had been received from the RCSI and UCC and that the operation of this guidance by the schools would be evaluated in the context of the accreditation process.

This document was unanimously approved by Council.

Action: Professional Development & Learning Unit

3.5 Premises & Equipment Guidelines

Approval was sought from Council for items 3.5.1, Briefing note to Council re premises and equipment guidelines, 3.5.2 Public Consultation Submissions and Responses Table Premises & Equipment and 3.5.3, draft Guidelines on the premises and equipment requirements of a Retail Pharmacy business.

These were unanimously approved by Council.

Item 3.5.4 was discussed and it was agreed that the PPD Unit would perform a review of practice guidelines and policy on extemporaneous dispensing

Action: Pharmacy Practice Development

3.6 Communications Strategy (Ms. Kate O' Flaherty)

Ms. O Flaherty stated that a draft Communications Strategy document was circulated in June, and thanked Council for their comments. Final approval by Council was now being sought on the draft document.
Final approval was unanimously agreed by Council.

3.7 Terms of Reference for the RQR Committee

Mr. J. Collins introduced the revised Terms of Reference for the RQR Committee. He proposed that the Terms of Reference be adopted as presented subject to amendment of paragraph 17 where the term “actions of the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee” would be replaced by the term “acts of the “Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee” to maintain consistency with the Council Rules.

The revised Terms of Reference for the RQR Committee, as thus amended, were unanimously approved by Council.

3.8 Implementation of the CPD Policy Programme

Dr. Horgan stated that the Irish Institute of Pharmacy is progressing towards becoming operational and outlined the services schedule foreseen for the CPD programme for its first year of delivery. Live and online programme delivery is still on track for start of Q2 in 2013. The PSI should be in a position to initiate the calls for membership of the Steering Group over the coming weeks. Progress on the data security protocol with the RCSI should be progressed once the operational phase has commenced as well as the process to recruit the Executive Director of the Institute.

3.9 Accreditation of RCSI’s Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) Degree Programme

Council was informed that the composition of the accreditation team [the ‘visitors’ as per the PSI (Education & Training) Rules 2008] to review the RCSI’s Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy) Degree Programme had been agreed by the Professional Development & Learning Committee. Mr. Stenson drew the attention of Council to the membership of the accreditation team of an academic pharmacist based in an Irish school of pharmacy for the first time. Members of the panel will be notified in due course.

3.10 Health (Pricing and Supply of Medical Goods) Bill 2012

The President informed the Council that a letter had issued to Minister Reilly advising him of certain concerns of the Council in regard to this Bill. The Minister has acknowledged receipt of this letter and has stated it is receiving attention.

3.11 PSI Risk Register

Ms. McGoldrick advised that all high level risks set out in the Risk Register are reviewed quarterly by the SMT. The Council discussed the detailed risk register circulated and decided that all Committees should review the risks relevant to their own units and report back to Council.

***Council Members Time**

Mr. Keith Hourihane thanked Council and the PSI Staff for their involvement and contribution to the Benevolent Fund evening that was held in Cork recently. The President congratulated Mr. Hourihane on a very well organized event. Ms. Leonie Clarke also congratulated Mr. Hourihane on taking the initiative in organising this event.

The President thanked Ms. Lucia Crimin for her contribution in the various roles she has managed in the PSI. He explained that Ms. Crimin had been successful in a competition for a secondment to the Department of Health to support the Chief Pharmacist from October 2012 for the period of Ireland’s EU Presidency which starts on 1st January 2013.

The President also welcomed Ms. Damhnait Gaughan back from maternity leave.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.