



Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), is a statutory body constituted under the [Pharmacy Act 2007](#) (the 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, in the public interest.

In accordance with section 10 of the Act, the PSI Council is made up of a lay majority:

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

Section 10 of the Act also sets out the categories and skills of people required on 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 regulatory functions.

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

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 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 with regard to 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, which includes taking decisions regarding further action in respect of certain complaints, and in the imposition of sanctions.

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.

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.psi.ie.

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 2.

Documentation is provided 7 days in advance of meetings, and in order to effectively contribute at these meetings, Council members can expect to spend at least one day reviewing and considering papers for each meeting. Council members are also required to sit on at least one Advisory Committee, and [Advisory Committees](#) meet a minimum of four times a year.

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.