



Minutes for Public Council Meeting No. 87
Thursday 22nd March 2018
PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin 2

The public session of the 87th meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, established under the Pharmacy Act, 2007 commenced at 8:30am on Thursday, 22nd March 2018 at PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin 2.

Present: Mr. Rory O'Donnell, President, Ms. Nicola Cantwell, Vice-President, Mr. Hugo Bonar, Mr. Graham Knowles, Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin, Mr. Sean Reilly, Ms. Louisa Power, Mr. Michael Lyons, Dr. Ailis Quinlan, Mr. Paul Turpin, Ms. Ann Sheehan, and Assoc. Prof. Sheila Ryder (from 10.40am onwards), Mr. Fintan Foy and Ms. Mary Rose Burke

PSI Staff: Mr. Niall Byrne, Dr. Cheryl Stokes, Dr. Cora Nestor, Mr. John Bryan, Dr. Lorraine Horgan, Ms. Damhnait Gaughan, Ms. Aoife Mellett and Mr. Conor O'Leary. Other PSI staff members also attended.

Public Gallery: The President, Mr. Rory O'Donnell, welcomed the attendees in the public gallery.

A. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr. Pat O'Dowd, Ms. Veronica Treacy, and Ms. Joanne Kissane.

B. Declaration of Interests

Under item B of the Council Agenda, the President drew Council members' attention to their obligations under paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacy Act 2007, which deals with the necessary disclosure of certain interests by members of the Council. Those requirements are also reflected in the Code of Conduct adopted for Council members which requires that Council members *"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."*

No conflicts of interest were declared.

C. Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 85

The President noted that the draft minutes of public Council meeting number 85 had previously been circulated to Council members and that one amendment had been received.

Decision: **The Council approved the minutes of the public session of Council meeting number 85, held on the 7th of December 2017 on the proposal of Mr. Fintan Foy and seconded by Mr. Graham Knowles.**

D. Office of the Registrar

D1. Report of the Registrar

Mr. Niall Byrne, PSI Registrar and Chief Officer, addressed Council and gave an overview, by means of a presentation, of the key updates and significant recent developments in the PSI. The Council had previously been circulated with the Registrar's Report which contains high level Departmental and Unit updates, together with key strategy and policy updates.

The Registrar informed Council that the publication of the PSI's Corporate Strategy marked the opening of the gateway to the next phase of the PSI's strategic journey, and that he wished to report to Council on progress and outcomes against the PSI's 2018 Service Plan, under the four strategic themes contained in the Corporate Strategy. He said he would specifically address how activity was moving the organisation closer to achieving its strategic objectives.

He informed Council that both he and Dr. Cora Nestor, the PSI's Interim Head of Policy, had met with Mr. Tony O'Brien, Director General of the HSE, and the HSE leadership team, on the 16th of January, in what he described as a positive engagement, arising from which, there had been follow up discussions with a number of HSE National Directors. Mr. Graham Knowles recommended to the Council that contact should also be made with Assistant National Directors. The Registrar informed Council that the PSI was committed to relationship building at all levels of the HSE.

With regard to Brexit, the Registrar Informed Council that he and Ms. Damhnait Gaughan, Head of Education and Registration, were due to meet with representatives from the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in April and May, respectively.

Under the strategy area of "promoting professionalism and quality in pharmacy", the Registrar informed Council that on the 29th of January, and on foot of guidance issued by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), the PSI had issued a regulatory notice advising the profession that food intolerance testing should not be provided in pharmacies. On the 22nd of February 2018, the PSI issued a notice to the profession, (which was a reiteration of previous communication), in relation to the supply of medicines containing Valproate, on foot of recent safety recommendations from the European Medicines Agency. The PSI had also issued a public statement to inform members of the public of what they should expect from pharmacies in relation to safe supply of this medicine, and making clear, in the light of the known risks, that the PSI wanted to hear of any circumstance where

safe supply procedures were not being followed. The Registrar informed Council that the PSI had also corresponded with the manufacturer and that a meeting had also been scheduled with Epilepsy Ireland and patient advocates.

The Registrar informed Council that the PSI had also issued an alert to all pharmacists to be vigilant with regard to the dispensing of Zantac syrup to children.

Ms. Mary Rose Burke expressed concern to Council regarding what she believed could be perceived by the profession as mixed messaging, arising from the notices issued by the PSI, on food intolerance testing, and Valproate. The Registrar informed Council that Regulatory Notices were issued to highlight important pharmacy practice and compliance matters that require immediate attention of superintendent pharmacists and pharmacy owners in their role of overseeing the safe operation of the pharmacy business. He also advised Council that Regulatory Notices highlight an issue of significant concern that require attention, and possible action, at the governance level in each retail pharmacy business, and that this purpose was communicated to pharmacies in advance of the first Regulatory Notice being issued. This information was also available on the PSI website. On the matter of food intolerance testing, a regulatory notice had been issued by the PSI. This did not prohibit or restrict pharmacists from offering a food intolerance testing service, but pharmacists would be required to justify provision of such testing for the purpose of diagnosing food intolerance in circumstances where the HPRA had stated that these tests have little or no clinical validity. The Registrar informed Council that no complaints had been received with regard to lack of clarity in the PSI's communications on either issue.

The Vice-President suggested to Council that it might be appropriate to clarify in the PSI Newsletter what the difference was between a Regulatory Notice and Guidelines. Mr. Hugo Bonar informed Council that the Health Products Regulatory Authority had issued a notice on the matter of food intolerance testing, offering advice and guidance. His expectation was that members of the profession were capable of making this distinction. The Registrar also said that in addition to informing pharmacists and pharmacy businesses, PSI was conscious of the need also to inform the public of these important matters. Following the discussion, the President recommended that consideration should be given to include an article in the Newsletter to clarify what the different regulatory tools were.

The Registrar informed Council under the strategy area of "impacting and collaborating through engagement", that all Superintendent Pharmacists had been invited to one of 11 regional seminars, with seven having been held to date. The focus of these is twofold – why the PSI Corporate Strategy matters, and to receive feedback from the profession in relation to the possible introduction of standards for governance and accountability in the context of pharmacy regulation. The President advised Council that feedback to date had been positive. The President thanked the Registrar and the PSI staff for their efforts.

The Registrar Informed Council that he had met with the Secretary General of the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) on the 7th of March 2018, and that the PSI would continue to meet with this key stakeholder on a quarterly basis. Ms. Mary Rose Burke cautioned that the IPU might be viewed as a lobbying body, and that Council should be mindful of how such meetings could be perceived by the

public. The Registrar noted Ms. Burke's comments, and stated that the agenda and records of all meetings between the PSI and the IPU were subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

The Registrar informed Council that the PSI had signed its first Performance Delivery and Oversight Agreement with the Department of Health. He also noted that Pharmacy Assessment System (PAS) documentation and reminders had been issued to all pharmacies for the third cycle of self-assessment. He also advised Council that a new procedure had been introduced to update each Health and Professional Conduct Committee member on Council's decision with regard to each Fitness to Practise case coming before it for adjudication from either Committee, which he described as a small, but significant step, in closing the feedback loop.

With regard to the strategy area on "building an effective organisation and benchmarking the PSI's performance", the Registrar informed Council that the External Auditors had completed the audit of the PSI's Financial Statements, which were on the agenda for Council's approval. He also highlighted that the recent Internal Audit on Data Protection, Records Management and Freedom of Information procedures had no major negative findings. He also noted that the PSI's recently drafted Business Continuity Plan had been used to manage the impact of recent adverse weather events. He was pleased to report that, as a consequence, disruption to the PSI's core activities, had been minimal.

The Register advised Council that the tender process for the review of Council sub-structures was complete, and that the project would commence shortly. Mr. Graham Knowles requested that the process for conducting the review be circulated to Council in advance of the project commencing.

D2. Update on the Q1 implementation of the 2018 PSI Service Plan

With regard to the 2018 Service Plan, the Registrar noted there were 16 Actions of which 13 were on track (green), and 3 were off track, but were being addressed (amber). Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin queried what progress had been made on clarifying the PSI's regulatory remit with regard to hospital pharmacies. The Registrar informed Council that the matter was being actively pursued and that more extensive legal advice had been required than had originally been envisaged. Dr. Ailis Quinlan queried why the risk relating to GDPR had changed from green to amber. Dr. Cheryl Stokes, Head of Corporate Governance and Public Affairs, informed Council that significant work had been done in this area but that work was slightly behind schedule, (hence the amber grading), but the Internal Auditor, as part of the last audit had advised the Audit and Risk Committee, that based on the findings from the audit, he was confident that the PSI would be GDPR compliant by the May 2018 deadline.

D3. Approval for an Observer from Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to attend PSI Council public meetings and PSNI to reciprocate.

The Registrar informed Council that following approval by Council of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the PSI and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Council was being invited to agree observer status under the MOU, to a member of the Council of the PSNI to attend public PSI Council meetings. The same courtesy would be extended to a member

of the PSI Council to attend public PSNI Council meetings. Mr. Graham Knowles expressed the view that it would be appropriate for the Vice-President and/or the President to attend a PSNI meeting. The Vice-President asked for the dates of the PSNI Council meetings. The Registrar agreed to provide these.

Decision: The Council agreed to observer status being attributed to a member of the PSNI Council attending public Council meetings, and to reciprocate, on the proposal of Mr. Paul Turpin and seconded by Mr. Hugo Bonar.

D4. Recommendation from the Administration and Finance Committee with regard to the PSI's 2017 Financial Statements.

Mr. Paul Turpin addressed Council on behalf of the Administration and Finance Committee and informed them that that the Committee had interrogated the PSI Financial Statements, and had found them to be robust, compiled in accordance with required accounting standards, and a true and accurate reflection of the PSI's finances. Mr. Turpin also informed Council that the Committee had met with the External Auditor and all necessary assurances had been received. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Turpin recommended the 2017 Financial Statements for approval to Council.

D5. Recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee with regard to the PSI's 2017 Annual Report

Mr. Paul Turpin, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee advised Council that the Committee had reviewed the Statement of Internal Control, the Risk Management Report and the Report from the Audit and Risk Committee contained in the Annual Report. He advised Council that the Committee was satisfied that the PSI's system of internal control operated effectively during 2017 and that the system of internal reporting gives early warning of control failures and emerging risks.

He also advised Council that the Committee had met with representatives from the PSI's External Auditors, JPA Brenson Lawlor, who expressed their view to the Committee, that the PSI had good accounting systems in place, and overall, the audit was clean and they were satisfied to issue an unqualified audit report. The Committee was also satisfied with the findings identified in the External Audit Management Letter and management's response. The Committee considered the draft financial statements to be complete, consistent with information known to the Committee and reflective of appropriate accounting standards and principles.

On behalf of the Audit and Risk Committee he recommended the 2017 Financial Statements and Annual Report for approval by Council.

Decision: The Council agreed to accept the recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee, and the Audit and Risk Committee, on the proposal of Ms. Muireann Ni Shuilleabháin and seconded by Dr. Ailis Quinlan.

D6. Approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements 2017

In presenting the Annual Report for approval to Council, a draft copy of which had been circulated to members of Council prior to the meeting, the President thanked PSI staff for the work they had

done. The Registrar thanked PSI staff, members of Council, and the President for their contribution to the achievements of the previous year, as set out in the PSI's 2017 Annual Report. The Vice-President requested a correction to page 71 of the Report, noting she had resigned from the PSI's Inspection and Enforcement Committee. The President thanked the former President of Council, Dr. Ann Frankish, and former Council members not present at the meeting; Ms. Deirdre Larkin, Dr. Chantelle Macnamara, Prof. Kieran Murphy, Mr. Richard Collis, Mr. Edward MacManus, and in the event of them not being reappointed by the Minister for Health, Mr. Shane McCarthy, and Dr. Paul Gorecki. The President recommended the PSI 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statement 2017 to Council for approval.

Decision: **The Council approved the PSI's Annual Report and Financial Statements 2017 on the proposal of Ms. Marie Louisa Power and seconded by Mr. Graham Knowles.**

The President recommended the PSI's Letter of Representation to the External Auditors, a copy of which had been circulated to members of Council prior to the meeting, to Council for approval.

Decision: **The Council approved the PSI's Letter of Representation to the External Auditors for signature by the President on the proposal of Ms. Mary Rose Burke, and seconded by Mr. Fintan Foy.**

E. Corporate Governance and Public Affairs

E1. Chairpersons' Forum Report

The President addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a report from the Chairpersons' Forum following its meeting on March 8th, 2018. He invited questions from Council. The Vice-President queried what progress, if any, had been made on setting up the Legislative Review Working Group. The President informed her that work was on-going at executive level, and that members of Council would be approached for their input. Ms. Mary Rose Burke expressed the view that the approach appeared to be piece-meal, and that Council's expectation was that there would be a holistic review. The Registrar informed Council that groundwork was being conducted with the Department of Health, with a view to putting the workstream on a formal footing. Once this had been achieved, people and resources would be assigned, and funding agreed. In his discussions with the Department, the Registrar stated that he had highlighted gaps and ambiguities in the current legislation and that the Department was receptive to the case for reform. However, the Department also had a range of other competing priorities and that enacting substantive legislative change in any particular area would need careful consideration by the Department. In general terms, the Registrar would suggest that specifying and agreeing required changes with the Department could possibly be achieved in the current year, with framing of the proposed new legislative framework taking place the following year. Mr. Graham Knowles suggested to Council that the Department's appetite for legislative reform should be tested before PSI resources were committed. The Registrar confirmed that this was the approach being taken. Council called for further progress in the formation of the Legislative Review Working Group. The President agreed that terms of reference for the Legislative Review Working Group should be drafted in time

for the next Council meeting, which would take place in May. The Vice-President asked Council members to let her know who would be interested in sitting on the Legislative Review Working Group.

E2. Approval of the Appointments to PSI Committees

Mr. Paul Turpin addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a memorandum prior to the meeting from the Nominations Sub-Group, following its meeting on February 8th, 2018, in which it made a number of recommendations to Council for appointment and re-appointment to the PSI's Disciplinary Committees, and these were being tabled for Council's approval.

Decision: **The Council approved the following appointments and re-appointments to the PSI Disciplinary Committees on the proposal of Mr. Graham Knowles, and seconded by Dr. Ailis Quinlan**

1. Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC)

a) Mr. Shane McCarthy be re-appointed to the PPC upon the expiry of his current term on the Committee, which corresponds with the expiry of his term on Council. In the event Mr. McCarthy is not re-appointed to the Council upon the expiry of his current term, he should be permitted to remain on the Committee as a non-Council member for a term of three years from 13 March 2018.

b) Conditional on a), Mr. Shane McCarthy be appointed Chair of the PPC, when the position becomes vacant on 21 October 2018 until 13 March 2021, which is in line with the expiry of his second term on the Committee.

c) Mr. John Murray be appointed as a lay member of the PPC, for a term of three years, to replace Ms. Margaret Barry, whose term on the Committee is due to finish on 10 May 2018.

d) Ms. Jill Long and Mr. Richard Hammond be appointed as Acting Chairs of the PPC when the positions become vacant on 21 October 2018, until the expiry of their current terms on the Committee on 6 December 2020 and 22 March 2020 respectively.

2. Professional Conduct Committee (PCC)

a) Mr. Dermot Jewell be appointed Chair of the PCC when the position becomes vacant on 29 September 2018, until the expiry of his current term on the Committee on 22 March 2020.

b) Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin and Mr. Mark Kane be appointed as Acting Chairs of the PCC when the positions become vacant on 1 January 2019. Mr. Kane will serve until the expiry of his current term on the Committee on 6 December 2020, and Ms. Ní Shuilleabháin will serve until the expiry of her tenure on Council, or following the expiry of three years, whichever is the earlier date.

3. Health Committee

a) Ms. Ann Sheehan be appointed Chair of the Health Committee when the position becomes vacant on 1 January 2019, until the expiry of her tenure on Council, or following the expiry of three years, whichever is the earlier date.

b) Ms. Katharine Bulbulia be appointed as Acting Chair of the Health Committee when the position becomes vacant on 1 January 2019, until the expiry of her current term on the Committee on 22 August 2020.

c) Mr. Tadhg Cleary MPSI, (sole trader) be re-appointed for a further term of three years to the Health Committee.

E3. Report of from the Audit and Risk Committee

Mr Paul Turpin, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a report from the Audit and Risk Committee, following its meeting on March 6th, 2018. He outlined to Council the supervisory role of the Audit and Risk Committee in relation to the PSI's internal and external audits, and tracking the organisation's risk.

He referred to comments in the Committee Report regarding the treatment of the PSI's Superannuation Scheme (i.e. the Scheme in place for all PSI staff employed in the public service prior to 1 January 2013) in the draft Financial Statements and also the comments on the Superannuation Report (Report on the Verification of the Superannuation Fund Liability). Mr. Turpin explained that, until the relevant Government Department confirms the funding mechanism for this superannuation scheme, progress on which has been slow to date, the superannuation funds collected to date by the PSI remained on the PSI's balance sheet. In effect, the PSI's expectation is that these funds will transfer to a designated State authority in due course. Mr. Turpin pointed out that the independent report on the fund liability indicated that there were sufficient funds on the PSI's balance sheet to cover its current liabilities.

F. Administration and Finance

FI. Report of from the Administration and Finance Committee

Mr. Paul Turpin, on behalf of the Administration and Finance Committee addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a report from the Administration and Finance

Committee, following its meeting on March 6th, 2018. Mr. Turpin outlined to Council the role of the Administration and Finance Committee, in relation to the PSI's finances. He noted that legal costs remained a challenging item for the PSI's finances, but that expenditure forecasting had become more accurate. Mr. Turpin expressed the view that PSI was living beyond its means, as it continued to draw on its reserves. That said, it was the case that the level of expected expenditure to be funded from reserves in 2017 had not materialised. Mr. Turpin informed Council that the Administration and Finance Committee had met with the External Auditors, who had informed the Committee that they had received full co-operation from the PSI staff at all times.

G. Professional Development and Learning

G1. Report from the Professional Development and Learning Committee.

Mr. Fintan Foy, Chair of the Professional Development and Learning Committee advised Council that the Committee Report been circulated to Council members following its meeting on March 7th. He invited questions from Council. Council was satisfied with the report and had no questions.

G2. Quarterly Update on the CPD implementation model, and Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) services delivery.

Mr. Fintan Foy addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a memorandum providing an update on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) implementation model, and Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IloP) services delivery, prior to the meeting. He invited questions from Council. Council was satisfied with the report and had no questions.

G3. Draft Practice Review Selection Policy

Mr. Fintan Foy addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a draft copy of the Practice Review Selection Policy and a memorandum in which Council was being asked to consider and approve for publication, the draft Practice Review Selection Policy under Rule 12 (2) of the PSI's CPD Rules, prior to the meeting.

G4 Revised Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists.

Mr. Fintan Foy addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a draft copy of the Revised Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists, and a memorandum in which Council was being asked to consider and approve the revised Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists, for submission to public consultation, prior to the meeting.

Decision: **The Council approved the publication of the draft Practice Review Selection Policy under Rule 12 (2) of the PSI's CPD Rules, and approved the revised Accreditation Standards for CPD Programmes and Courses for Pharmacists, for submission to public consultation, on the proposal of Ms. Ann Sheehan, and seconded by Ms. Marie Louisa Power**

G5. Institute of Irish Pharmacy Annual Report 2017

Mr. Fintan Foy addressed Council stating that Council members had been circulated with a copy of the Irish Institute of Irish Pharmacy Annual Report 2017 for information purposes, prior to the meeting. The Annual Report was noted by Council.

H. Registration and Qualification Recognition

H1. Report from the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee

Mr. Graham Knowles, Chair of the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee advised Council that the Committee Report been circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting. He invited questions from Council. Council was satisfied, and had no questions

I. Pharmacy Practice Development Committee

I1. Report from the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee

Ms. Ann Sheehan, Chair of the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee advised Council that the Committee Report had been circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting. She invited questions from Council. Council was satisfied, and had no questions.

I2. Update on the Review of the Code of Conduct.

Ms. Ann Sheehan advised Council that a memorandum providing an update on the on-gong Review of the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists had been circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting. She invited questions from Council. Council was satisfied, and had no questions.

I3. Approval of Guidelines on the Safe Supply of Non-Prescription Medicines from a Retail Pharmacy Business (RPB)

Ms. Ann Sheehan advised Council that a draft copy of the Guidelines on the Safe Supply of Non-Prescription Medicines from a Retail Pharmacy Business had been circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting. Council was being asked to consider the draft, and if it deemed appropriate, to approve the guidelines for publication. Ms. Mary Rose Burke stated she found the draft prescriptive in nature. Mr. Conor O'Leary informed Council that the draft guidelines are intended to assist pharmacists in the safe supply of non-prescription medicines from Retail Pharmacy Businesses in accordance with the relevant legislation. Mr. Conor O'Leary noted that a standards-based approach to guideline development is being explored by the Pharmacy Practice Development Department and Committee, and that Council will be kept updated in this regard.

Decision: Council approved the Guidelines on the Safe Supply of Non-Prescription Medicines from a Retail Pharmacy Business (RPB), on the proposal of Mr. Hugo Bonar, and seconded by Mr. Fintan Foy.

J. Inspection and Enforcement

J1. Report from the Inspection and Enforcement Committee

Mr. Hugo Bonar, Chair of the Inspection and Enforcement Committee informed Council that the Report from the Inspection and Enforcement Committee had been circulated to Council members in advance of the meeting. He highlighted that there was an underspend against the Inspection and Enforcement budget for 2017. He noted that it was for the Registrar to decide how the PSI's resources should be allocated, but suggested there should always be sufficient numbers of authorised officers for the PSI to meet its regulatory remit. He invited questions from Council. Council was satisfied, and had no questions.

J2. Approval of Delegation of the Warranting of Authorised Officers

Mr. Hugo Bonar informed Council they were being asked to consider and approve two motions which would permit the delegation of authority, previously delegated by Council to the Inspection and Enforcement Committee, to the Registrar as the Registrar was deemed by the Committee to be best placed to decide on the appropriateness of the appointment and authorisation of an authorised officer.

The changes proposed were, firstly, to recommend that Council revoke/remove the previous delegation in place which provides for the I&E Committee to appoint and warrant authorised officers. Secondly, to recommend that Council approve the delegation to the Registrar, of Council's power to appoint authorised officers for all purposes of the Pharmacy Act 2007 and to furnish such authorised officers with warrants of appointment.

Motion 1 - A resolution which proposes to revoke Council Motion No. 3 dated 30 November 2010 which delegated authority to the Inspection and Enforcement Committee of Council to appoint PSI staff as authorised officers for all purposes of the Pharmacy Act 2007, to include Part 7 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 pursuant to sections 7(2)(b)(ix), 7(2)(b)(x) and 67 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 and to furnish those persons so appointed with warrants of appointment; and,

Motion 2 - A resolution proposes to delegate authority to the Registrar of the PSI to appoint PSI staff as authorised officers for all purposes of the Pharmacy Act 2007, to include Part 7 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 pursuant to sections 7(2)(b)(ix), 7(2)(b)(x) and 67 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 and to furnish those persons so appointed with warrants of appointment

Decision: Council approved Motions 1 and 2, on the proposal of Ms. Muireann Ni Shuilleabháin, and seconded by Ms. Mary Rose Burke.

K. Council Business

K1. Council Members' Time

Mr. Sean Reilly informed Council that he wished to express his concern about the impact recent adverse weather events had on the pharmaceutical supply chain. He outlined that many pharmaceutical wholesalers had ceased distribution for a considerable period of time, and emergency measures which had been put in place had, in his view, been sub-optimal, with pharmacists unable to reach wholesaler emergency service points of contact, as the wholesalers had not provided their contact details. Mr Reilly questioned the quality of the contingency planning that had been done by pharmaceutical wholesalers. There was, he informed Council, a potential patient safety issue, given the apparent fragility of the supply chain. The Vice-President suggested that the issue needed to be looked at from all sides, as there was anecdotal evidence suggesting that some pharmacists had double ordered, which had put pressure on the entire wholesale system. Mr. Hugo Bonar stated that if there was evidence that the supply system had not worked, then this should be brought to the attention of the HPRA, under whose regulatory ambit it fell, but it was questionable whether the PSI would be the appropriate body to do this. He also noted that wholesale distribution companies had to take the health and safety of their own staff into consideration. The Registrar offered to raise the matter with the HPRA at one of its scheduled bilateral meetings. Ms. Mary Rose Burke suggested that it should also be raised by the Registrar at the next scheduled meeting with the IPU. The Registrar said he would be happy to do this.

The meeting concluded at 11:45am.

President

Date