



Minutes for Public Council Meeting No. 93
Thursday 6th December 2018
PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin 2

The public session of the 93rd meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, commenced at 08:30am on Thursday, 6th December 2018 at PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin 2.

Present: Mr. Rory O'Donnell, President, Ms. Nicola Cantwell, Mr. Hugo Bonar, Mr. Graham Knowles, Ms. Marie Louisa Power, Ms. Veronica Treacy, Mr. Shane McCarthy, Mr. Michael Lyons, Mr. Paul Turpin, Assoc. Prof. Sheila Ryder, Mr. Fintan Foy, Ms. Fiona Walsh (until 10:00am), Ms. Mary Rose Burke (until 10:45am), Ms. Joanne Kissane, Ms. Dorothy Donovan, Dr. Ailís Quinlan, Dr. Paul Gorecki, Ms. Ann Sheehan, and Mr. Sean Reilly.

PSI Staff: Mr. Niall Byrne, Registrar, Ms. Louise Canavan, Mr. John Bryan, Dr. Lorraine Horgan, Dr. Cora Nestor, Ms. Damhnait Gaughan, Ms. Aoife Mellett, Mr. Conor O'Leary, Mr. Mark O'Riordan, Ms. Ruth McDonnell, Mr. Éanna O Lochlainn. Other PSI staff members also attended for part of the meeting.

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 and Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin.

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. 92

The President noted that the draft minutes of public Council meeting, number 92 had previously been circulated to Council members, and one amendment had been received.

Decision: The Council approved the minutes of the public session of Council meeting number 92, held on the 20th September 2018, as amended, on the proposal of Ms. Veronica Treacy, and seconded by Mr. Hugo Bonar.

D. Office of the Registrar

D1. Report of the Registrar

The Registrar provided Council with an overview, by means of a presentation, of recent developments within the PSI.

Addressing the PSI’s four strategic themes, with regard to promoting professionalism and quality in pharmacy, the Registrar informed Council that 72 pharmacists were selected for the April 2019 Practice Review. The last year of the National Pharmacy Internship Programme had commenced in September, with 169 applications submitted and processed. He informed Council that members of the PSI Executive Leadership team were engaging in the national implementation of the EU Directive on Falsified Medicines and the Delegated Regulations on Safety Features, through attendance at the regular multi-stakeholder meetings hosted by the Department of Health, and meetings with the Irish Medicines Verification Office (IMVO). The Registrar also recognised and thanked the two fourth year pharmacy students who were on placement with the PSI since September, and recognised their valuable contribution during their time, across a range of projects designed to contribute to the development of their professional competencies.

With regard to impacting through collaboration and engagement, the Registrar informed Council that staff of the Education Unit made presentations to first year MPharm students in all three Schools of Pharmacy during October, as well as other speaking and engagement opportunities by different staff members since the previous Council meeting. The PSI had a stand at the National Patient Safety Conference on 17 & 18 October 2018 which highlighted

the recommendations of the Future Pharmacy Practice Report, and the process leading to revision of the Code of Conduct. He outlined that members of the PPD Department attended the CLEAR (Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation) Annual Education Conference in Philadelphia to provide a workshop on 'Creating a Code of Conduct for Modern Pharmacy Practice'. The workshop was highly rated by Conference attendees and will be formally recognised with an honourable mention in the next issue of *CLEAR News*.

With regard to the third strategic area, building an effective organisation and benchmarking the PSI's performance, the Registrar informed Council that the Head of Education and Registration attended an EFQM conference in October with a view to aiding the PSI in pursuing accreditation under its organisational excellence framework in 2019. He noted that a draft HR Strategy for the PSI has been developed. As part of the HR Strategy's second strand, 'Making the PSI an employer of choice', the PSI would be launching a staff engagement survey prior to Christmas 2018. He also noted the PSI continued to engage closely with the Department of Health regarding sanction for the 15 additional posts, the business cases for which, were submitted in March 2018. He also informed Council that following a mini-tender process, a consultancy had been selected to work with the PSI to review the organisation's structure, to assist in meeting its functions and strategic priorities as effectively as possible. This process is expected to conclude by end January 2019. The Registrar informed Council that following receipt of the independent report on PSI's IT security assessment, all critical/high risks and recommendations have been resolved, and the provider was scheduled to commence the re-testing of all the critical/high risks, which is to be completed by mid-December 2018. The Registrar also noted that following the September 2018 approval of the business case by Council for the Business Transformation Project, the programme had commenced with engagement by staff with process re-design, and also, the development of initial public procurement documentation, in order to go to the market to identify interested potential vendors.

With regard to regulating effectively for better health outcomes and patient safety, the Registrar informed Council that PSI Authorised Officers conducted twenty-three inspections of pharmacies in collaboration with the Health Products Regulatory Agency (HPRA). The purpose of these visits was to review the supply and management of prescription medicines and controlled drugs. The Registrar informed Council that an appeal against the proportionality of a sanction imposed on a registered pharmacist was heard before the High Court on 18 October. In light of the particular circumstances of the case, the President of the High Court amended the sanction imposed. The Registrar informed Council that two temporary Regulatory Project Pharmacists have commenced their work in the Regulation Department. These staff will plan, coordinate, and deliver a risk assessment framework to assist with the effective deployment of regulatory resources, together with an associated implementation plan, and design the PSI's programme of themed reviews across key areas of pharmacy. The Registrar informed Council that several PSI staff have engaged with the Department of Health to assist in the progression of regulations in relation to

implementation of the proposed national cannabis access programme, the implementation of the EU delegated regulations on safety features, and updating the medicinal products regulations to assist in the implementation of the forthcoming legislation on termination of pregnancy.

Ms. Mary Rose Burke queried whether key accountabilities relating to the role of supervising pharmacists, as defined under current legislation, and also the contract that pharmacies had with the HSE, would be considered by the newly formed PSI's Standards Advisory Group. The Registrar stated that the Department of Health was aware of the need for a new supervising pharmacist contract, given that the current contract dated from 1996. He said that the Standards Advisory Group's work would primarily be looking at accountability in terms of the superintendent role, but that the roles of both owner and supervising pharmacist would also be considered.

Ms Nicola Cantwell queried who the members of the PSI's Standards Advisory Group were. In response, Mr. Conor O'Leary, Head of the Pharmacy Practice Development Department, stated that a list of the Group's members would be published on the PSI's website. He also confirmed, following a question by Ms. Veronica Treacy, that the hospital pharmacist on the group was a superintendent pharmacist.

Mr. Sean Reilly asked if the PSI had any plans to publish a revised *Guide to Sanctions* following the recent decision taken by the President of the High Court with regard to PSI sanctions, which the Registrar had referred to in his Report to Council. Mr Michael Lyons asked that a copy of the decision to be circulated to Council members. The Registrar stated he would address this matter in Council's private meeting.

Mr. Michael Lyons asked about the resources required to manage PSI social media accounts given that the number of followers seemed low. Ms. Louise Canavan, Acting Head of Corporate Governance and Public Affairs, said it was important that the PSI had these channels of engagement available to it. She stated that the PSI had started using Twitter and LinkedIn at the end of 2017, and that it continued to be a work in progress.

Mr. Shane McCarthy complemented the efficiency with which the PSI's Fitness to Practise team, were dealing with cases, evidenced in the statistics provided with the Registrar's Report, and he referenced the quick handling of a matter by mediation in late 2018. Several Council members also acknowledged this progress.

D2. Q4 Implementation of the Service Plan 2018

The Registrar updated Council with the end of year report on the implementation of the 2018 Service Plan, noting that resource constraints existed and that these had impacted, to some degree, on what could be achieved. New projects would continue to be prioritised, with twelve due to come on line in 2019.

Of the 23 strategic actions contained in Service Plan 2018, as of 6 December 2018, the overall position, was that nine actions had been fully completed in 2018 in line with expectations. Ten actions were not fully complete, but extensive progress had been made (80%+ of target), three actions were not fully complete, but with some progress made, and one action had not commenced.

The Registrar stated that Council could be satisfied that the PSI was continuing to deliver to a high standard with the resources it had available to it.

Associate Professor Shelia Ryder queried how the sanction of only half of the requested posts by the Department of Health, in the first instance, would impact on the PSI, as it appeared to represent a considerable gap in what had been requested. The Registrar stated that most of the posts for which sanction had been requested, were currently being filled on a temporary contract basis, but that he continued to have particular concerns regarding the absence of a Registration Manager.

Mr. Michael Lyons queried whether more resources were needed to police internet supply of medicines. Mr. John Bryan, Head of Regulation, responded, that both registrants' and non-registrants' web-sites were monitored by the PSI, and that the PSI worked closely with the HPRA in this area. A number of inspections had been triggered following complaints received by one, or other organisation.

D3. Update on the Business Transformation Project

Mr. Mark O'Riordan provided Council with an update by means of a slide presentation on the progress of the Business Transformation Project.

D4. Appointment of the Members of the Programme Board for the Business Transformation Project, and Approval of the Programme Board's Terms of Reference.

The President sought approval from Council for the terms of reference of the Programme Board for the Business Transformation Project, and for the appointment of Mr. Fintan Foy, as Chair of the Programme Board, and the appointment of Mr. Enda Kyne, Ms. Fiona Walsh, and Mr. Sean Reilly, as members of the Programme Board, for a period of two years, commencing on January 1st, 2019.

Decision: Council approved the terms of reference of the Business Transformation Project Board, on the proposal of Ms. Mary Rose Burke, and seconded by Ms. Ann Sheehan.

Decision: Council agreed to appoint Mr. Fintan Foy, as Chair of the Programme Board for the Business Transformation Project, for a period of two years commencing on January 1st, 2019, and to appoint Mr. Enda Kyne, Ms. Fiona Walsh, and Mr. Sean Reilly, as members of the Programme Board for a period of two years, commencing on January 1st, 2019, on the proposal of Dr. Paul Gorecki, and seconded by Mr. Shane McCarthy.

D5. Appointment of Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and Scrutineers for election of members to PSI Council in 2019.

Ms. Louise Canavan, Acting Head of Corporate Governance and Public Affairs, informed Council that in accordance with rule 6(1) of the PSI (Council) Rules 2008, Council was required at the final meeting of the year, to appoint a Returning Officer and a Substitute Returning Officer, as well as two Scrutineers for the purpose of the Council election in coming year.

Council was asked to approve the following appointments to oversee the election of members to the PSI Council in 2019.

Returning Officer; Mr. Niall Byrne, PSI
Substitute Returning Officer; Ms. Sinead O’Keeffe, PSI
Scrutineer; Ms. Cicely Roche, TCD
Scrutineer; Mr. John Lynch, HPRA

Decision: Council approved the appointment of Returning Officer, Mr. Niall Byrne, Substitute Returning Officer Ms. Sinead O’Keeffe, Scrutineer Ms. Cicely Roche, and Scrutineer Mr. John Lynch, on the proposal of Ms. Ann Sheehan, and seconded by Mr. Hugo Bonar.

D6. Update from the IIOB Strategic Review Working Group

Ms. Mary Rose Burke provided Council with a verbal update on the on-going work of the IIOB Strategic Review Working Group. She informed Council that the Group met on November 6th, 2018 and discussed the scope of a project by which a new stand-alone legal entity, which would deliver on the requirement for leadership within the profession, could be developed. Continuing professional development (CPD) requirements as a regulatory aspect, would continue to rest with the PSI, who would retain accountability, but who could sub-contract the delivery system. She informed Council that what was being proposed for development at this stage was a straw man, to be used as a basis for discussion within the

profession. Ms. Burke informed Council that the Group's assessment was that a feasibility study would be required, which would be contracted to an external agency. The work required, could be done as one project, or a number of smaller ones. Ms Burke indicated that provision had been made in the PSI's 2019 budget for this. Council queried whether a transfer of current activities undertaken by the PSI, to a new entity, was envisaged under the proposal. Ms Burke stated that she believed that the PSI could continue to have on-going contractual responsibility for CPD; but that the responsibility for leadership, and the development of the profession, should rest with the profession, not the regulator. Ultimately, the feasibility study would determine whether or not there was an appetite, or mechanism through which this future body could be delivered. Information was sought as to whether any equivalent models currently existed. Ms. Burke cited the General Pharmaceutical Council and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in the UK, as an example of the how a regulatory body and a leadership body could co-exist. The Vice President requested that, prior to putting out to tender, that the matter be revisited by the Council and a written proposal be provided. The Registrar informed Council that such would be the case.

D7. Update from the Legislative Reform Working Group

The Vice President provided Council with a with a verbal update on the on-going work of the Legislative Reform Working Group, noting that work with the Department of Health was continuing. Due to the pressure of ongoing legislative work within the Department, the Department had agreed to progress the matter with PSI in Q2 of 2019. Mr. Shane McCarthy reminded Council of the *Review of Disciplinary Structures for Healthcare Professionals* which was sent to the Department of Health in 2015 and suggested it might be useful for the Group to reacquaint themselves with its contents. The Registrar confirmed that the report would be considered as part of the review of policy in the area, and he undertook to circulate the Review to Council.

D8. Service Plan and Budget 2019

A copy of the 2019 Service Plan, and the 2019 Budget had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. The Registrar highlighted the key elements of the Service Plan to the Council by means of PowerPoint slides. The Registrar noted the importance of advancing the Council's strategic agenda in 2019, as well as the need to undertake the many ongoing functions given to these under legislation. The Registrar also commented on the PSI's financial position, and on the need for budgetary control as well as the strategic importance of establishing the future funding requirement for the organisation. Mr. Shane McCarthy, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, informed Council that the Committee had interrogated the budget, and were content to recommend it to Council, but he wished to caveat that the PSI's income remained static, while expenditure

continued to grow. This, he said, would become particularly evident in 2020 when, and if, the posts for which sanction had been requested from the Department of Health, would be filled. In answer to a query from Ms. Marie Louisa Power, Mr. McCarthy stated that a review of strategic funding was planned in Q4 of 2019. The Vice President expressed concern regarding the provision in the budget, for the feasibility study referred to during the discussion on item D8 (Update from the IOP Strategic Review Working Group), of the Council meeting. Mr Fintan Foy reminded Council that this was a budgetary provision, not a budgetary sanction. Formal approval for budgetary sanction would still need to be sought from Council. The Vice President requested that in future all Working Group updates to Council, should take the form of written report. Mr. Michael Lyons queried the financial provision made for monitoring, in the context of the order from the High Court during a recent hearing. The Registrar confirmed that the order related to a specific case, and that there was provision in the order to recoup the costs at a later date. It was not envisaged that this would be a routine occurrence, and the PSI would contest such a provision, should this occur in any future order. The President thanked Mr. McCarthy, and the members of the Administration and Finance Committee for their service, as the Committee was now standing down to make way for the new PSI advisory committee structure approved by Council earlier in the year.

Decision: Council approved the PSI’s budget for 2019, on the proposal of Ms. Marie Louisa Power, and seconded by Mr. Fintan Foy.

Decision: Council approved the PSI’s service plan for 2019, on the proposal of Dr. Ailis Quinlan, and seconded by Ms. Joanne Kissane

E. Pharmacy Practice Development

E1. Report to Council from the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee.

Ms. Ann Sheehan, Chair of the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee informed Council that a copy of the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee’s Report to Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Council had no questions.

The President thanked Ms. Sheehan, and the members of Pharmacy Practice Development Committee for their service, as the Committee was now standing down to make way for the new PSI advisory committee structure approved by Council earlier in the year.

E2. Approval of the revised Code of Conduct for Pharmacists.

Council was asked to approve the revised draft Code of Conduct for Pharmacists, a copy of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr Shane McCarthy asked when the new Code was due to become operational. Mr Conor O’Leary, Head of the Pharmacy Practice Development Department, informed Council that the draft Code would first need to be approved by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, after which, the Code would be sent to the Minister for Health for final approval. Upon receipt of Ministerial approval, the Code would then be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas, and it would become operational. Ms. Veronica Treacy expressed the view that principle 1 in the Code, was a duplicate of principle 4, which related to conscientious objection, and asked that 4 be re-drafted, to form part of 1. Following discussion by Council, Ms. Treacy withdrew her request, and it was agreed by Council that no change should be made to the draft revised Code. Mr. Michael Lyons queried if delaying publication would be appropriate, given the proposed legislation relating to termination of pregnancy which was currently being debated in both houses of the Oireachtas. Council agreed this would not be appropriate.

Decision: Council approved the revised Code of Conduct for Pharmacists on the proposal of Mr. Paul Turpin, and seconded by Ms. Dorothy Donovan.

F. Corporate Governance and Public Affairs

FI. Report on the Audit and Risk Committee

Mr. Paul Turpin, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, informed Council that a copy of the Report of the Audit and Risk Committee, had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He informed Council that at its last meeting, the Committee had agreed that the PSI’s risk management processes, and procurement processes, would be the subjects of the first two internal audits of 2019. He also informed Council that he continued to have concerns regarding the PSI’s staffing levels. He drew Council’s attention to the Committee’s responsibility, as outlined in its updated terms of reference, for ensuring the PSI remained compliant with the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies*. This was he reminded Council, a distinct and separate function, to that of the newly formed Performance and Resource Committee.

F2. Report to Council from the Special Purposes Committee

The President, as Chair of the Special Purposes Committee, informed Council that a copy of the Special Purpose's Committee's Report to Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Council had no questions

F3. Approval of the recommendations from the Special Purposes Committee to Council, on appointments of Council members to the new PSI advisory committees, and the appointments and re-appointments to the Audit and Risk Committee.

A memorandum had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting containing the Special Purposes Committee's recommendations for appointment and reappointment of Council members to the PSI's Audit and Risk Committee, and appointment of Council members to its new advisory committees, the Performance and Resources Committee, and Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee.

Decision: Council approved that;

1) Ms. Marie Louisa Power be re-appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee for a further term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

2) Ms. Veronica Treacy be appointed to the Audit & Risk Committee, for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

3) Ms. Fiona Walsh be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee, for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

4) Ms. Mary Rose Burke be appointed to the Performance and Resources Committee for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

5) Mr. Pat O'Dowd be appointed to the Performance and Resources Committee for a term of two years, or until his tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

6) Mr. Michael Lyons be appointed to the Performance and Resources Committee for a term of two years, or until his tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

7) Mr. Fintan Foy be appointed to the Performance and Resources Committee for a term of two years, or until his tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

8) Ms. Dorothy Donovan be appointed to the Performance and Resources Committee for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

9) Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin be appointed to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

10) Mr. Hugo Bonar be appointed to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a term of two years, or until his tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

11) Dr. Ailis Quinlan be appointed to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

12) Assoc. Prof. Sheila Ryder be appointed to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a term of two years, or until her tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

13) Mr. Sean Reilly be appointed to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a term of two years, or until his tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner.

14) Dr. Paul Gorecki be appointed to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a term of two years, or until his tenure on Council finishes, whichever the sooner

on the proposal of Mr. Fintan Foy, and seconded by Ms. Ann Sheehan

The Special Purposes Committee also recommended to Council that Ms. Wendy Kennedy, who has completed her first term as an external member of the PSI's Audit & Risk Committee, be reappointed to serve for a second term of two years.

Decision: Council approved that Ms. Wendy Kennedy who has completed her first term as an external member of the PSI's Audit & Risk Committee, be reappointed, and serve for a second term of two years on the proposal of Mr. Paul Turpin, seconded by Ms. Ann Sheehan.

F4. Approval of revisions to delegations of Council

Council was asked to approve the following motion as a transition measure while the Executive reviews the structure of necessary delegations in the context of implementing the revised structure of the PSI's Advisory Committees.

This resolution proposes to revoke 28 existing delegations of the Council which currently reside with the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee (RQR), the Professional Development and Learning Committee (PD&L), and the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee (PPD), per the committees' terms of reference.

Decision: Council approved the revocation of the previous delegations to the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee, the Professional Development and Learning Committee and the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee PPD Committees and agreed that those functions be retained by the Council, until a revised delegations framework is considered by the Council, on the proposal of Ms Joanne Kissane, and seconded by Ms. Marie Louisa Power.

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, informed Council that a copy of the Report from the Professional Development and Learning Committee, had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He invited questions from members of Council. Council was content with the Report and had no questions.

G2. Quarterly update on CPD implementation model, and Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) services delivery

Mr. Fintan Foy informed Council that a copy of the Quarterly Update on CPD Implementation Model, and Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) services delivery, had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He invited questions from members of Council. Council was satisfied with the update and had no questions.

G3. Approval of the IOP Work Programme for 2019

Mr. Fintan Foy, Chair of the Professional Development and Learning Committee, informed Council that a copy of the draft IOP Work Programme for 2019, had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting, for its approval. He invited questions from members of Council. Ms. Marie Louisa Power queried the mechanism through which specific healthcare priorities and course delivery, would be identified. The Executive clarified that it was a holistic mechanism and would identify and deliver health system needs and priorities.

Decision: Council approved the IOP Work Programme for 2019, on the proposal of Ms. Ann Sheehan, and seconded by Dr. Ailis Quinlan.

G4. Terms of Reference of the IOP Advisory Group

Mr. Fintan Foy informed Council that a copy of the Terms of Reference of the IOP Advisory Group, had been circulated to Council for information, in advance of the meeting. He invited questions from members of Council. The structure, and provenance of the Advisory Group, in the context of the current contract, and the approved recommendations made in the Crowe Howarth report were clarified in response to Council queries. Council made no comment on the Terms of Reference. The President thanked Mr. Foy and the members of the Professional Development and Learning Committee for their service, as the Committee was standing down to make way for the new PSI advisory committee structure approved by Council earlier in the year.

H. Administration and Finance

H1. Report to Council from the Administration and Finance Committee

Mr. Shane McCarthy, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, informed Council that a copy of the Report from the Administration and Finance Committee, had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He highlighted the Committee had conducted its annual review of the PSI's Reserves Policy, and Legal Reserves Policy, and noted there were no changes to propose to Council.

He asked Council to note the item regarding the PSI's 2018 budget update and the projected figures for income and expenditure. He also asked Council to note the deficit agreed for 2018 that would move into 2019 in the absence of sanction from the Department of Health for the proposed new PSI posts. He drew Council's attention to the item relating to the PSI's superannuation scheme and the Committee's request that a direct engagement with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform continue to be pursued on the long-standing funding mechanism issue. Council was content with the Report and had no questions.

H2. Approval of Management Accounts to the period 30th of September 2018

Following their review by the Administration and Finance Committee, Mr. Shane McCarthy, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee, recommended the Management Accounts for the period to 30th September 2018 for approval by Council. The President thanked Mr. McCarthy and the members of the Administration and Finance Committee for their service, as the Committee was standing down to make way for the new PSI advisory committee structure approved by Council earlier in the year.

Decision: Council approved the Management Accounts for the period to the 30th September 2018 for approval, on the proposal of Ms. Ann Sheehan, and seconded by Ms. Veronica Treacy.

I. Registration and Qualification Recognition

I1. Report from the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee

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

I2. Policy Proposal regarding Third Country Qualification Route

Ms Damhnait Gaughan, Head of the Education and Registration Department, asked Council to consider the proposed policy position in respect of a new Third Country Qualification Recognition Process, and to seek consensus on whether the policy proposal and direction was acceptable to the Council in the context of its regulatory remit. Council discussed the policy document and a number of considerations arose;

- Utilisation of the proposed route and envisaged timelines in the context of qualifications obtained in the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.
- Reciprocity arrangement in the context of specific qualifications;
- Costs of assessment.
- Principle of cost being borne by the applicant.
- Costs to the PSI in delivery of the proposed mechanism.

Council undertook to revert if further points occurred, and to share expertise.

13. Approval of draft Temporary Absence Rules for Public Consultation

Mr. Graham Knowles, Chair of the Registration and Qualification Recognition Committee asked Council to consider and approve for public consultation, with particular regard to rule 8, the proposed draft Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Temporary Absence of Pharmacist from Pharmacy) Rules 2018, as outlined in the memorandum which had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He confirmed that after the public consultation, all comments received would be presented to the Council, and the proposed Rules would be considered by Council, prior to a decision to forward them to the Minister. The Vice President queried the value of another public consultation as no changes had been made following the last public consultation. There was a robust discussion regarding the value of responses to public consultation, and their consideration by Council and the Executive. Mr. Hugo Bonar stated that in his opinion, public consultation was intended as an aid to, rather than a mechanism for, decision making. Council agreed by a majority vote, that the draft Temporary Absence Rules, as presented to Council, be submitted for further public consultation, and that the responses to the consultation be discussed at its next meeting.

The role of the Pharmaceutical Assistant as specified in Section 31 of the Act was recognised. It was clarified that the scope outlined in Rule 8, referred solely to the activity of a Pharmaceutical Assistant when s/he was operating in the temporary absence of the pharmacist, and that it did not restrict or interfere with activity when providing skilled assistance in accordance with the governance framework in place in a given pharmacy practice. Concerns were voiced regarding how the phrase “repeatable prescription” could be interpreted, and whether instalment dispensing of controlled drugs, and drugs with a narrow therapeutic index, could be included in this. The consensus amongst Council was that this was not the case, but it recognised that specific guidance should be provided on this.

Decision: Following a vote, Council agreed by a majority, that the draft Temporary Absence Rules, as presented to Council, be submitted for public consultation.

14. Update on the implication of Brexit for registration.

Ms. Damhnait Gaughan, Head of the Education and Registration Department provided Council with a verbal update on matters relating to Brexit.

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 a copy of the Report of the Inspection and Enforcement Committee, had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. He invited questions from members of Council. Council had no questions. The President thanked Mr. Bonar and the members of the Inspection and Enforcement Committee for their service, as the Committee was standing down to make way for the new PSI advisory committee structure approved by Council earlier in the year.

K. Motion of Council

K1. Council approval of the admission of a late Motion to Council proposed by V. Treacy and seconded by N. Cantwell (President).

Council discussed whether it was appropriate that a late motion to Council proposed by Ms. Veronica Treacy, and seconded by Ms. Nicola Cantwell, be tabled at the meeting as provided for in the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Council) Rules 2008 and 2015, and the Standing Orders of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland

Decision: Following a vote, Council agreed by a majority, that the motion not be put to Council.

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

President

Date

