

PSI Council Public Meeting Minutes

Minutes of meeting number 99 of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), as established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, the public session of which commenced at 08:30am on Thursday 24 October 2019 at PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin.

Agenda Item A - Attendees & Apologies

Name	Role	Present (Yes/No)
Ms. Joanne Kissane	President	Yes
Mr. Michael Lyons	Vice President	Yes
Mr. Hugo Bonar	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Graham Knowles	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Veronica Treacy	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Shane McCarthy	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Paul Turpin	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Ann Sheehan	Council Member	Yes
Prof. Brian Kirby	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Fiona Walsh	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Mark Jordan	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Dorothy Donovan	Council Member	No
Dr. Ailis Quinlan	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Geraldine Crowley	Council Member	No
Mr. Seán Reilly	Council Member	Yes
Dr. Paul Gorecki	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Marie Louisa Power	Council Member	No
Mr. Roy Hogan	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Nicola Cantwell	Council Member	No
Mr. Fintan Foy	Council Member	No
Members of PSI staff in attendance included:		
Mr. Niall Byrne	Registrar	

Ms. Louise Canavan	Acting Head of Corporate Governance & Public Affairs Department
Ms. Damhnait Gaughan	Head of Education & Registration
Mr. Éanna Ó Lochlainn	Governance & Planning Officer
Ms. Cora O’Connell	Education Manager
Ms. Louise Hamra	Education & Registration Officer

Colour code: *Red—for decision; Green—for discussion; Blue—for information*

Agenda Item B – Declaration of Interest by Members of Council

Issue

Declaration of interests by members of Council

Information

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.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: No conflicts of interest were declared

Agenda Item C – Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 98.

Issue

Council was asked to approve the postponement of the approval of the draft minutes of Council public meeting no. 98, which took place on September 19, 2019, until its next public meeting which is scheduled to take place on December 12, 2019.

Information

The postponement had been requested in order to keep the public session of Council as brief as possible, to facilitate Council’s planning and development session which was scheduled to take place immediately after its public meeting.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved postponement of the approval of the draft minutes of Council’s public meeting no. 98, until its next public meeting, which is scheduled to take place on December 12, 2019, on the proposal of Mr. Shane McCarthy and seconded by Ms. Veronica Treacy.

Agenda Item D – Agreement on Amending of the PSI Registration Rules

Issue

Council was asked to approve the amending of the PSI Registration Rules in anticipation of the United Kingdom (UK) leaving the European Union (EU) without an agreement.

Information

The PSI currently operates three routes of qualification recognition: the national, EU and Third Country Qualification Recognition routes. Currently, prospective PSI registrants holding United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, qualifications, are processed through the EU route. Post 31 October 2019 (or any such date in the future, on which the UK may exit the European Union without an agreement in place, referred to as a “no deal Brexit”), applications for registration from the UK/NI will have to be considered under the Third Country Qualification Recognition Route (TCQR).

At its meeting on 19 September 2019, Council approved draft rules for public consultation to be utilised in the event of a ‘no deal Brexit.’ The effect of the proposed amending rule, was to amend the current TCQR route to provide for circumstances whereby qualifications presented, which meet the minimum training conditions laid down in the Professional Qualifications Directive on an objective evidenced basis, may be processed in a timely mechanism to provide for recognition.

Council was informed that, following the public consultation process and further liaison with the Department of Health, the following Rule amendments were proposed for Council’s approval, to facilitate the timely registration of UK/NI qualifications under specific circumstances:

- Rule 18(1) substituting “The Council” for “Subject to the provisions of this Rule, the Council,” to allow for recognition of qualifications which meet the minimum training conditions laid out in Article 44 of the Professional Qualifications Directive without requiring they be subject to the conditions in Rule 18(2) .
- The word “shall” be changed to “may” in Rule 18(2) on the basis that the Act does not require all TCQR applications to be processed through an examination framework.
- Rule 18(3) be amended to provide for certification of qualification to be issued when a qualification is recognised under Rule 18(1).
- Amendment made to Schedule 4 , Par. 10 (d) to accommodate removing the absolute requirement for a detailed syllabus where the qualification is one which would have been automatically recognised under the Professional Qualifications Directive before October 31st 2019, and the training for which, commenced before that date.

Council was informed that the Department of Health had led the policy direction regarding the issue of recognition of qualifications, and registration of healthcare practitioners where qualification equivalence was evident with qualifications attained in the UK/NI. Council was informed that it was for the PSI to ensure the policy with regard to pharmacists was implemented in a way which would not pose a threat to public health, or patient safety. Council was informed that the current fee for prospective registrants applying via the TCQR route was €1,500. It was envisaged that this recognition fee would be waived, and registrants would only incur the registration fee €540 as current. Council was further informed, that a full review of the current TCQR route was ongoing, further to Council's adoption of policy principles to underpin that process earlier in the year. This is intended to make more effective and efficient the route for all third country applicants seeking to practice in Ireland. Both the Registrar and Head of Education and Registration advised that all matters relating to qualification recognition due to Brexit would be kept under close scrutiny.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the draft amending rules for submission to the Minister for Health, on the proposal of Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin, seconded by Mr. Hugo Bonar.

The meeting concluded at 09.00am.

President

Date