

PSI Council Public Meeting Minutes

Minutes of meeting number 109 of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), as established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, the public session of which commenced at 08:30 am on Thursday 10th December 2020. The meeting was held on-line due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and in accordance with rule 19(2) of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Council) Rules 2008 (S.I. No. 492 of 2008), and (S.I. 532 of 2020) Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Section 29) (Health) (Designation) Order 2020.

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 |
| Dr. Shane McCarthy | Council Member | Yes |
| Mr. Paul Turpin | Council Member | Yes |
| Ms. Ann Sheehan | Council Member | Yes |
| Prof. Brian Kirby | Council Member | No |
| Ms. Fiona Walsh | Council Member | Yes |
| Mr. Mark Jordan | Council Member | Yes |
| Ms. Muireann Ní Shúilleabháin | Council Member | Yes |
| Ms. Dorothy Donovan | Council Member | Yes |
| 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 | Yes |
| Mr. Roy Hogan | Council Member | Yes |

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| Ms. Nicola Cantwell | Council Member | Yes |
| Mr. Fintan Foy | Council Member | Yes |
| Members of PSI staff in attendance online for all or part of the meeting included: | | |
| Mr. Niall Byrne | Registrar | |
| Dr. Lorraine Horgan | Head of Operations | |
| Dr. Cora Nestor | Head of Policy | |
| Ms. Cora O’Connell | Education Manager | |
| Mr. Dan Burns | Project Pharmacist (Business Transformation) | |
| Ms. Caroline Murphy | Legal Affairs Manager (Acting) | |
| Mr. Eoin Corrigan | Finance and Operational Performance Manager | |
| Mr. Éanna Ó Lochlainn | Governance & Planning Officer | |
| Ms. Damhnait Gaughan | Head of Education and Registration | |
| Ms. Marie Bjerborg | Strategy and Organisation Change Manager | |

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

The President declared a conflict of interest with regard to item H.3 on the agenda.

Agenda Item C – Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 107.

Issue

Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 107.

Information

The President noted that no amendments had been received to the minutes as drafted.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the minutes of the public session of Council meeting number 107, held on the 8th of October 2020, on the proposal of Ms. Marie Louisa Power and seconded by Ms. Veronica Treacy.

Agenda Item D – Agreement on the Meeting Agenda

Issue

The President invited members of Council to give notice of any items they wished to submit under item K, Any Other Business.

Information

None.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

One item was tabled for discussion under any other business (Item. J).

Agenda Item E.1 – Registrar’s Report

Issue

Report from the Registrar, including an update on the PSI’s response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Information

The Registrar updated Council on the PSI’s ongoing response to the public health emergency. He noted the Government had recently convened a COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force, and that he expected the PSI would, in due course, be called upon to contribute to the work of the Task Force, with regard to the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme via pharmacists and/or pharmacies. With regard to the survey conducted by the PSI of retail pharmacies in a hospital setting, as referenced in the Registrar’s Report, Council queried if the survey had included acute hospitals and hospices. The Registrar confirmed that the PSI had engaged with all registered pharmacies operating under the governance of hospitals, which amounted to 70 retail pharmacies in

total, and that some were not what would be described as hospital settings in the conventional sense. Council queried if there had been any technical issue with the current on-line renewals process for pharmacists. Council was informed that there had been a minor technical issue. The Executive apologised for any inconvenience this had caused registrants and advised that it was being investigated and a solution to manage it planned. Council queried if the PSI was proposing to provide any vaccination training on-line for registrants. The Registrar confirmed that the PSI would act as required once the Government's vaccination policy was outlined.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Council noted the Registrar's Report.

Agenda Item E.2 – Update on Corporate Strategy 2018-2020 & Q4 2020 Service Plan implementation.

Issue

The Registrar updated Council on Corporate Strategy 2018-2020 & Q4 2020 Service Plan implementation and invited questions from Council.

Information

Council had no questions. The President thanked the Registrar and praised the adaptability and agility demonstrated by the PSI's staff in delivering projects under the Service Plan as well as the ongoing regulatory business of PSI, in what had been a challenging year for all concerned

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Council noted the update.

Agenda Item E.3 – Request for approval by Council of PSI Corporate Strategy 2021-2023.

Issue

Council was asked to approve the PSI Corporate Strategy for 2021-2023

Information

Council noted with regard to page six of the Strategy that it should be made clear that the PSI is self-funded. The President thanked the Registrar and the members of the Council Strategy Sub-Group for their work in drafting the Strategy, particularly given the background of COVID-19, assisted by Ms. Louise Canavan, Mr. Éanna Ó Lochlainn, Ms. Marie Bjerborg, and Ms. Lisa Manselli.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the PSI Corporate Strategy for 2021-2023 on Mr. Hugo Bonar's proposal and seconded by Ms. Muireann Ní Shúilleabháin.

Agenda Item E.4 - Request for approval by Council of PSI Service Plan and Budget for 2021 (incorporating the recommendation of the Performance and Resources Committee on the PSI Budget 2021)

Issue

Request for approval by Council of PSI Service Plan and Budget for 2021 (incorporating the recommendation of the Performance and Resources Committee on the PSI Budget 2021)

Information

The Registrar presented the Service Plan and Budget for 2021, noting the potential impact of the ongoing pandemic and the need to advance various projects under the new Corporate Strategy. Council was informed by Mr. Graham Knowles, in his capacity as Chair of the Performance & Resources Committee, that following review by the Committee, that the Committee was recommending the Budget and Service Plan for approval to Council. He invited question from Council. Council noted the timeline covered by the forthcoming Strategic Financial Review, as referenced in page 11, should be three years, rather than one year. The projects proposed for funding from the reserves were outlined in the briefing paper circulated in advance to Council.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the PSI Service Plan and Budget for 2021 on the proposal of Ms. Fiona Walsh and seconded by Ms. Dorothy Donovan.

Agenda Item E.5 – Brexit Update.

Issue

Ms. Damhnait Gaughan provided Council with a verbal update on preparations being made by the PSI in advance of Brexit.

Information

Ms. Gaughan updated Council on ongoing preparations concerning Brexit, including data sharing with GB and NI pharmacy regulators post Brexit. She invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The update was noted by Council.

Agenda Item E.6 – Quarterly update on the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIP) operations and developments.

Issue

Ms. Damhnait Gaughan provided Council with an update on the Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIP) operations and developments.

Information

Ms. Gaughan invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item F.1 – Report to Council from the Performance and Resources Committee.

Issue

Mr .Graham Knowles informed Council that a copy of the Report to Council from the Performance and Resources Committee had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting.

Information

Mr. Knowles invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Council noted the contents of the Report.

Agenda Item F.2 – Request for approval by Council of Management Accounts to 30 September & year-end forecast.

Issue

Request for approval by Council of the Management Accounts to 30 September and year-end forecast, copies of which had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting.

Information

Mr. Graham Knowles, in his capacity as Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee, informed Council that a copy of the Management Accounts to 30 September & year-end forecast had been approved by the Committee for recommendation to Council for its approval. He invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the **Management Accounts to 30 September and year-end forecast** on the proposal of Ms. Fiona Walsh, and seconded by Ms. Marie Louisa Power.

Agenda Item F.3 – Reappointments to PSI Disciplinary Committees

Request for reappointments to PSI Disciplinary Committees

The proposed reappointments were brought before Council by the Performance & Resources Committee for consideration, and to ensure the composition of the PSI's Disciplinary Committees remain in compliance with the provisions of the Pharmacy Act 2007.

Decision Approved: Council approved the following reappointments:

That Ms. Jill Long and Mr. Derek Fehily MPSI be reappointed to the PSI Preliminary Proceedings Committee (PPC) on the proposal of Dr. Shane McCarthy, seconded by Dr. Paul Gorecki, effective from 7 December 2020 and 13 December 2020 respectively.

That Mr. Mark Kane and Mr. Eugene Renehan MPSI be reappointed to the PSI Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) on the proposal of Ms. Veronica Treacy, seconded by Mr. Mark Jordan, both effective from 7 December 2020

Decision Approved: Council approved the following reappointment effective from 6 January 2021:

That Ms. Karen Furlong is reappointed to the PSI Health Committee on the proposal of Ms. Marie Louisa Power, seconded by Ms. Fiona Walsh.

Agenda Item F.4 – Request for approval by Council for opening a deposit account with the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA).

Issue

Request for approval by Council for opening a deposit account with the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) and the approval of authorised signatories.

- (a) Approval of revised PSI Treasury Management Policy to include the NTMA,
- (b) Approval of Motion to open an account with the NTMA including designated signatories.

Information

Following review by the PSI Executive, and the Performance and Resources Committee of trends in interest rates as well as the merits of having another body approved to hold PSI funds, Council was asked to:

- (a). Approve the revised PSI Treasury Management Policy to incorporate the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) as an authorised institution.
- (b) Approve the opening of a PSI deposit account with the NTMA and authorised signatories on the NTMA account.

Council queried if the maximum amount held on deposit at a single financial institution could be lowered from 40% to 30% to ensure greater diversification and reduce the PSI's risk exposure. The Chair of the Performance and Resources Committee agreed that this would be examined again as part of the Committee's in-depth review in early 2021 of the Treasury Management Policy in the context of the negative interest environment.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved;

1. The revised PSI Treasury Management Policy to incorporate the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) as an authorised institution;
on the proposal of Ms. Dorothy Donovan, seconded Ms. Muireann Ní Shúilleabháin.
2. The opening of a PSI deposit account with the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) and the motion to approve the following as authorised signatories on the NTMA account.
 - Registrar – Mr. Niall Byrne,
 - Head of Operations – Dr. Lorraine Horgan,
 - Head of Regulation – Mr. John Bryan,
 - Head of Education and Registration – Ms. Damhnait Gaughan.on the proposal of Mr. Fintan Foy, seconded by Dr. Paul Gorecki.

Agenda Item F.5 – Request for approval by Council of revised PSI Depreciation Policy for technology platforms.

Issue

Request for approval by Council that the PSI's depreciation policy for new technology platforms be changed from three years to five years.

Information

Council was informed by Mr. Graham Knowles, in his capacity as Chair of the Performance and Resources (P&R) Committee, that the PSI's current depreciation policy for computer equipment and software, is 33% on a straight-line basis. The new online registration system and platform being built as part of the Business Transformation Programme (BTP) are being treated for depreciation purposes as software with an economic life of three years. The P&R Committee recommended that, in line with best practice and a 2018 Circular from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the PSI's depreciation policy for this new technology asset, be changed from three years to five years. Council noted that this recommended change had been brought to the Audit and Risk Committee's attention at its 24 November 2020 meeting and that this change had received that Committee's support. Questions were invited from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the change of the PSI's depreciation policy for the new technology asset, from three years to five years, on the proposal of Ms. Fiona Walsh, seconded by Mr. Hugo Bonar.

Agenda Item F.6 – Request for approval of the assumptions underpinning the PSI Strategic Financing Review

Issue

Council was asked to approve the assumptions underpinning the PSI Strategic Financing Review.

Information

Council was informed by Mr. Graham Knowles, Chair of the Performance and Resources (P&R) Committee, that a paper regarding the assumptions being proposed to underpin the carrying out of the first phase of the Strategic Financing Review (SFR), had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The P&R Committee considered the paper at its meeting on the 18 November 2020, and the Committee was recommending it for approval by Council. It was proposed that the assumptions would be revisited and reviewed quarterly by the P&R Committee. The Committee would keep Council informed of developments through its report to Council. The Committee also recommended that a full review by Council of the assumptions would be conducted annually. The review would be conducted in tandem with the Council's consideration of the next year's budget.

Following a presentation by Mr. Knowles of the key assumptions proposed to underpin the SFR, Council commented that the underlying assumptions which had been brought before it, were normative, based on multi-annual datasets relating to the PSI's historical activities, and that any legislative changes could impact on the PSI's business model, in particular on any projected savings. Consequently, it was considered that a degree of flexibility would need to be maintained concerning those assumptions. Council also commented with regard to Fitness to Practise in particular, that the PSI was exemplary within the health regulatory sector in its management of a demand-driven model, and that the proposed creation of a rolling Legal Fees Reserve for the demand-led complaints system to off-set year-on-year peaks and troughs would support this vital work. Council expressed the view that the potential impact on the PSI's income arising from possible changes in the pharmacy sector, be they legislative, demographic, economic, or contractual, made for critical underlying assumptions with implications for the organisation's viability, and would therefore need to be kept under constant review.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the assumptions underpinning the PSI Strategic Financing Review on the proposal of Ms. Fiona Walsh, seconded by Ms. Dorothy Donovan.

Agenda Item G.1 – Preliminary Proceedings Committee Annual Report 2019

Issue

Dr. Shane McCarthy presented the Preliminary Proceedings Committee Annual Report 2019 to Council, in his capacity as Chair of the Committee.

Information

Council noted the number of complaints referred to the PPC had increased, but the number of complaints which had been sent forward by the Committee for further disciplinary action had remained static. Council welcomed the Report, commended the Preliminary Proceedings Committee's work, and requested the Report be published, as usual, on the PSI website. Dr. McCarthy thanked the PSI staff who had assisted the Committee in its work throughout the year.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item H.1 – Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee Report to Council.

Issue

The Report of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting.

Information

Ms. Muireann Ní Shúilleabháin, in her capacity as Chair of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee, invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item H.2 – Request for approval by Council of IOP Workplan 2021

Issue

Council was asked to approve the IOP Workplan 2021.

Information

A copy of the IOP Workplan 2021 has been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. Ms. Muireann Ní Shúilleabháin, in her capacity as Chair of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee, invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the IOP Workplan 2021 on the proposal of Mr. Fintan Foy, seconded by Mr. Graham Knowles.

Agenda Item H.3 – Request for approval by Council of public consultation on the draft amendment to PSI (Education and Training) Rules.

Issue

Council was asked to approve the proposed draft amendment to the PSI (Education and Training) Rules for public consultation.

Information

The President excused herself for this item due to a conflict of interest. Vice President, Mr. Michael Lyons assumed the Chair. Ms. Muireann Ní Shúilleabháin, Chair of the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee, sought the approval from Council, to issue for public consultation, draft rules that would extend the provisions provided for by SI 148/2020, to fifth-year students undertaking their 8-month experiential learning placements from January 2021, where in individual circumstances the placement is impacted by the circumstances of the COVID- 19 pandemic.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the proposed draft amendment to the PSI (Education and Training) Rules to be sent for public consultation, on the proposal of Mr. Mark Jordan, seconded by Mr. Hugo Bonar.

Agenda Item I.1 – Business Transformation Programme Board Report to Council.

Issue

[Business Transformation Programme \(BTP\) Board Report to Council.](#)

Information

The President returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair. Mr. Fintan Foy, in his capacity as Chair of the Business Transformation Programme Board, informed Council that its Report to Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting. He informed Council that budget spend is tracking as expected, and the project's traffic light status remains amber. He also updated Council that the BTP Project Manager had recently had to take long-term leave due to personal circumstances and an interim replacement had been appointed. There had also been two key staff changes on the supplier's team. He informed Council that Programme Board was assessing the delivery schedule in light of these developments, but that the project continued to be on track, and that no change had been made to the project risk register at this time. He invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item J.1 – Audit & Risk Committee Report to Council

Issue

The Report of the Audit & Risk Committee had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting.

Information

Mr. Paul Turpin, in his capacity as Chair of the PSI Audit & Risk Committee, informed Council that Ms. Wendy Kennedy had completed her two terms of office on the Committee and that he wished to record his thanks to her. The President took the opportunity to thank Mr. Turpin, who she noted had also completed his tenure as Committee Chair, praising his commitment, and his measured approach to the role.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item K.1 – Special Purposes Committee Report to Council

Issue

The Report of the Special Purposes Committee had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting.

Information

The President in her capacity as Chair of the Special Purposes Committee invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item K.2 – Request for approval by Council of recommendations for appointment and reappointment of Council members to PSI Advisory Committees, and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee

Issue

Council was asked to approve recommendations for appointment and reappointment of Council members to PSI Advisory Committees and appointment of a new Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Information

Following review at its meeting on the 27th of November 2020, the Special Purposes Committee, in accordance with the terms of reference of each of the PSI's Advisory Committees, made recommendations for re-appointment, to be approved by Council.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved:

(a). Council approved the reappointment of:

1. Mr. Graham Knowles, Mr. Fintan Foy, and Ms. Dorothy Donovan to the Performance and Resources Committee for a further term of two years, or until they cease to be members of Council, whichever the sooner, on the proposal of Mr. Hugo Bonar, seconded by Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin.
2. Mr. Sean Reilly, Mr. Hugo Bonar, Dr. Paul Gorecki, Dr. Ailís Quinlan, and Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin to the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee for a further term of two years, or until they cease to be members of Council, whichever the sooner, on the proposal of Ms. Dorothy Donovan, seconded by Ms. Fiona Walsh.
3. Ms. Veronica Treacy, Ms. Fiona Walsh, and Ms. Marie Louisa Power to the Audit & Risk Committee for a further term of two years, or until they cease to be members of Council, whichever the sooner, on the proposal of Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin, seconded by Mr. Fintan Foy.

(b). Council approved the appointment of Ms. Veronica Treacy as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee for a term of two years, or until she ceases to be a member of Council, whichever the sooner, on the proposal of Ms. Ann Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Paul Turpin.

Agenda Item K.3 – Request for approval by Council of recommendation for appointment of an external, non-Council member, to the Audit & Risk Committee.

Issue

Council was asked to approve the recommendation for appointment of an external, non-Council member, to the Audit & Risk Committee.

Information

As Chair of the Special Purposes Committee, the President informed Council that the Committee was recommending that panel member Mr. Peter Dewhurst be appointed as an external, non-Council member of the PSI's Audit & Risk Committee. Following an expression of interest (EOI) exercise in May 2019, which invited members of the public, with requisite experience and qualifications, to apply for appointment to the Audit and Risk Committee; a panel of shortlisted applicants was established. This panel was to be drawn on until the end of December 2020 when vacancies for an external member arose on the Committee.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the appointment of Mr. Peter Dewhurst as an external, non-Council member of the PSI's Audit & Risk Committee on the proposal of Ms. Dorothy Donovan, seconded by Ms. Fiona Walsh.

Agenda Item K.4 – Request for Approval by Council of Revised Terms of Reference for PSI Advisory Committees

Issue

Following review by the Special Purposes Committee of the Advisory Committee's terms of reference, some amendments are proposed for approval by Council in the interest of the Committees' efficient functioning.

Information

1. In her capacity as Chair of the Special Purposes Committee, the President informed Council that the quorum for each Committee is currently defined as "one greater than half the number of members of the committee". This is derived from Article 26(2) of the Council Rules (SI 492 of 2008). In circumstances where an Advisory Committee is comprised of an uneven number of members, say 7, the current interpretation of the Rule results in the quorum being 5 members. The Special Purpose Committee recommended that more efficient functioning of the

Committees can be achieved by interpreting the Rule to mean, where membership is an uneven number, 50% of the Committee members rounded up to the nearest whole number (i.e., $7/2=3.5$, rounded up to 4). This accords with how the quorum for Council is set, under Article 6(6) of the Schedule to the Act, i.e., a quorum is 11 of 21 members.

2. The Audit and Risk Committee comprises a maximum of 7 members, where 3 are appointed externally. The terms of reference allow members to sit on the committee for up to two years and be eligible for reappointment. No members will ordinarily serve more than two consecutive terms. Having discussed this at its recent meeting, the Special Purpose Committee advises that PSI will benefit from the highly valued specialised expertise of external members if they are allowed to sit on the committee for up to three years and be eligible for reappointment for a further term of three years.
3. The Executive recommends that Council take this opportunity to remove an ambiguity in the Terms of Reference for both the Regulatory and Professional Policy and Performance & Resources Committees, relating to Council members on each Committee and the possible appointment of external members.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved:

Council approved the draft revised terms of reference of the:

- (a) Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee
- (b) Performance and Resource Committee
- (c) Audit and Risk Committee

on the proposal of Ms. Muireann Ní Shuilleabháin, seconded by Ms. Veronica Treacy.

Agenda Item K.5 – Request for approval of the appointment of Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, and Scrutineers for the election of members to PSI Council in 2021

Issue

Council was asked to approve a Returning Officer and a Substitute Returning Officer, and two persons to act as Scrutineers, at the Council election in 2021.

| Issue |
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| Information |
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| The President informed Council that in accordance with Section 5(2) of the PSI (Council) Rules 2008, as amended, an election will be held on Wednesday, 21 April 2021 to fill five vacancies on Council which will arise in 2021. |

| Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council |
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| <p><u>Decision Approved:</u></p> <p>Council approved the following appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Niall Byrne, PSI - Returning Officer,• Dr. Cheryl Stokes, PSI - Substitute Returning Officer,• Dr. Cicely Roche, TCD - Scrutineer 1,• Mr. John Lynch, HPRA - Scrutineer 2. <p>on the proposal of Ms. Ann Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Mark Jordan.</p> |

Agenda Item J.1 – Any Other Business

| Issue |
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| A matter had been tabled for discussion under item D of the Agenda. |

Information

Council was invited to consider how the Dying With Dignity Bill, currently undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny in the Oireachtas, would impact the profession, particularly regarding conscientious objection and whether a submission should be made to the relevant Committee of the Oireachtas.

Council members expressed a range of views including that the PSI should seek to ensure specific mention of pharmacists' right to conscientious objection is made in any legislation arising from the Bill. Council members also cautioned against agreeing on a PSI position concerning a Bill which was still in an early stage. Council members pointed out that the PSI Code of Conduct for Pharmacists already addressed the matter of conscientious objection. Council members proposed setting up a Working Group to develop the PSI's position concerning the Dying With Dignity Bill. A vote was called on this proposal.

Decision Approved, and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council voted by a majority not to establish a Working Group to develop the PSI's position with regard to the Dying With Dignity Bill.

The meeting concluded at 1pm.

President

Date