

A special meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland was held at 11.00am on 11th December 2007 at 18 Shrewsbury Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 to consider the draft Service Plan 2008 and projections for expenditure in 2009 and 2010.

Council Members in attendance:

Mr. B. Hayes (President), Dr. B. Leddy (Vice President), Mr. C. Deasy, Mr. R. Durkin, Mr. C. Fagan, Mr. P. Fahey, Dr. P. Gallagher, Ms. N. Harvey, Ms. I. Kelleher, Ms. D. Larkin, Ms. M. Ní Longáin, Mr. D. O’Loughlin, Ms. P. O’Neill, Assist. Comm. N. O’Sullivan, Mr. R. Quirke, Prof P. Weedle

Apologies:

Dr. W. Boles, Prof. J. Feely, Ms. C. Hallahan, Prof. J. Nunn, Ms. R. Purcell

PSI Corporate Management:

Dr. A. McLoughlin (Registrar), Dr. D. Bryan, Mr. J. Bryan, Ms. D. Gaughan, Ms. L. Horgan, Mr. J. Hislop, Ms. M. Kinsella, Ms. S. O’Keeffe, Dr. C. Stokes

1. Conflict of Interest Statement (included on recommendation of A. Horan, Director, IPA)

“The code of conduct for Council members requires them to 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.”

2. Service Plan 2008

The President introduced the Service Plan 2008 (see attached), produced in conformity with Schedule 1 para. 22 of the Pharmacy Act 2007 and noted it had been considered and approved by the Administration, Finance and Corporate Governance Committee at its meeting held on December 6th 2007. The President also thanked the Chairs of the Committees for their contribution to the preparation of the document.

The Registrar presented an overview of the Service Plan 2008 (see attached) which has a strategic focus on patient safety and public protection. He stressed the need to focus over the next 2-3 years on the successful and thorough implementation of the Pharmacy Act 2007. The Service Plan 2008 sets out what the PSI will work on in 2008. The Service Plan is the output of conjoint working between the relevant Committees and management of the PSI.

Council thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the document. Council raised a number of questions which were then clarified:

- It was noted that the receipt of the Service Plan only a few days before the meeting made it difficult for members to fully assess and consider all the detail involved. The Registrar acknowledged the short timeframe which was outside of his control. The Registrar indicated this was because of the unusual circumstances in 2007. There will be at least a two week interval in 2008 and subsequent years.
- It will be necessary to make a decision on the assets of the PSI once the report commissioned by the outgoing President and Council of the PSI due to be delivered by architect Mr. Brian O’Connell in early 2008. Any surpluses arising from the disposal of PSI assets may only be used by the Council in

accordance with the Paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 of the Pharmacy 2007 which specifies that they may only be disposed for the purposes of the development of education, research or any other public purpose connected with pharmacy.

- It was outlined to Council that the employment of additional personnel will be necessary in 2008 in order to implement the Pharmacy Act 2007. Further, all employment and contract terms would be in line with best legal practice.
- It was clarified that the increased charge to students for the Pre-Registration year programme was necessitated as a result of the significant increase in pre-registration graduate numbers and ongoing development of the programme. The fee proposed is in line with other professional training programmes and remuneration will be made to the tutor pharmacists in the form of a small stipend paid to the training establishment.
- Clarification was sought regarding the possibility of the provision of a Government subvention of €1.6 million to go towards the implementation of the Pharmacy Act 2007 from 2009 on. The Registrar will raise this matter directly with the Department of Health and Children.
- Council requested that the Administration, Finance and Corporate Governance Committee monitor expenditure throughout 2008 to ensure the most cost-effective processes are employed and to report at regular intervals to Council.
- It was noted that the final report from PriceWaterhouseCoopers in respect of a methodology for setting fees would be made available shortly to Council and would provide further clarification regarding the methodology used to establish fee structures in 2008 and beyond. The fees proposed in 2008 are in line with recommendations from PWC.

All Council members present agreed to accept the Service Plan 2008 with the exception of Mr. R. Quirke (against) and Ms. P. O'Neill (abstention). Mr. R. Quirke noted he voted against the Service Plan 2008 because he felt too much was being based on trust and he would want to see the PriceWaterhouse report and the architect's report on the assets before he could endorse the plan in good conscience. Council agreed to forward the Service Plan 2008 to the Minister for Health and Children for her review and consideration.

Motion to forward the Service Plan 2008 to the Minister for Health and Children for her review and consideration was proposed and seconded.

1. Ms. M. Ní Longáin
2. Mr. P. Fahey

Agreed

Action¹: Office

4. Finalization of Audit Committee

Council approved the appointment of Mr. Raymond Dolan, Food Safety Authority, to the Audit Committee.

Council nominated and approved Ms. M. Ní Longáin as the Council's representative on the Audit Committee. The President thanked Ms. M. Ní Longáin for agreeing to serve.

Motion to approve nominations to the Audit Committee was proposed and seconded.

1. Mr. D. O'Loughlin
2. Mr. P. Fahey

Agreed

Action²: Office

The Registrar informed Council that it was difficult to secure nominees for the Audit Committee and he had agreed that staff from the PSI will also be available to sit on other state bodies' audit committees.

5. Date of Next Council Meeting

Council agreed to hold a special meeting in January to consider reports from PWC and the architect, Mr. Brian O'Connell, to discuss further the issues of registration fees and proposals on the assets. This meeting would be a special meeting in addition to the Council meeting scheduled for 26th February 2008.

6. Council Members' Time

Mr. R. Quirke sought the President's advice regarding Mr. R. Quirke's position as Chair of a Committee of the PSI Council in light of his vote against the Service Plan 2008. The President agreed to revert to Mr. R. Quirke on a personal basis with regard to this matter.

Meeting adjourned: 1.15pm

**Dr. Ambrose McLoughlin
REGISTRAR**