



**Council**  
**31 January 2018**  
**Chief Executive and Registrar's Report**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For decision
<b>Issue</b>	A review of activities and performance since the last Council meeting not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the contents of the report.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	None
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None
<b>Communications implications</b>	None
<b>Annexes</b>	A. 2017-18 Business Plan – Q3 progress report B. Financial report at end of Q3
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## Introduction

1. This report gives an account of activities of note that have been undertaken by the Chief Executive and others since the last Council meeting, which are not reported elsewhere on the agenda.

## Department of Health legislation update

2. The Department of Health (England) published its long-awaited consultation on healthcare regulation immediately before the last meeting of Council. A draft response to the consultation has been circulated separately to members and was due to be submitted by 23 January. The Chair of Council and Head of Registration and Resources attended a joint meeting of regulators to discuss areas of common interest in the response period and beyond.
3. We also submitted a response to the Department of Health's consultation on the regulation of medical associate roles. As part of the response we identified that we were aware of osteopaths already working in such roles and that one option for their regulation would be through annotation of the GOSc Register rather than a new register held by the GMC or HCPC.
4. Following the recent reshuffle it has now been confirmed that Steve Barclay, Minister of State for Health, has responsibility for Professional Regulation in the Department of Health (England).

## Professional Standards Authority update

5. The Professional Standards Authority published its own proposals for reform of the sector (<https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/publications/detail/right-touch-reform-a-new-framework-for-assurance-of-professions>) on 23 November 2017. On 22 December the PSA published a review of how different regulators categorise fitness to practise and related data (<https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/publications/detail/categorisation-of-fitness-to-practise-data>) to which we contributed.
6. The PSA's 2017-18 Performance Review of the GOSc commenced in early December. We anticipate that we will be notified of the recommendation on our performance around mid-February. Depending on the outcome at that stage the report will be published some time between May and November 2018.
7. The PSA's Board considered proposals for changes to the Performance Review Standards at its January meeting. What appears to be emerging is a revised approach which will provide more nuance than the current met/not met gradings, and a hybrid of the existing standards and a more 'principles-based' approach. We anticipate that a consultation on the new standards will take place in the spring which we will report to Council.

## Office for Students (OfS) consultation

8. We responded to the OfS consultation *Securing student success: risk-based regulation for teaching excellence, social mobility and informed choice in higher education*. In our response we highlighted the synergies with the approach that we take and also our desire to work with OfS to ensure that there is not excessive overlap or duplication between our regulatory roles. A copy of the response can be found on our website at: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/consultations/response-to-students-securing-student-success/>

## Osteopathic Practice Standards Stakeholder Working Group

9. We held a further meeting of the Osteopathic Practice Standards Review Working Group on 9 January 2017 to consider the responses to the consultation on the revised Standards held last year.
10. The meeting was very positive and reached a consensus on an approach to the issues raised within the consultation, particularly those more contentious issues around osteopathic principles and philosophy, the promotion of public health and advertising.
11. Feedback from the stakeholder group will be used to inform the revised standards which will be presented to the Policy Advisory Committee in March and Council in May.

## Osteopathic Development Group update

12. Council has previously asked for more detailed updates on the work of the Osteopathic Development Group (ODG) and its projects.
13. Following recent meetings, two of the original projects – communities of practice and international collaboration – are considered to be 'business as usual' activities, with a third around evidence (including PROMs) requiring no further input from the ODG Board.
14. Work continues on other projects including advanced/accredited clinical practice, leadership, mentoring and service standards. Each of these is either at a critical point, e.g. consultation, pilot evaluation or implementation. It is proposed that a full report across all the projects will be brought to the May meeting of Council for its review.
15. The ODG is also considering its future work beyond this initial programme of projects. It has concluded that there remains a need for it to continue but the shape of its programme has not yet been determined. This in part will be influenced by the development of new corporate strategies by the Institute of Osteopathy and ourselves later this year.

## **FORE/EFO merger**

16. I have continued to work with colleagues in Europe to secure the merger of the European Federation of Osteopaths and the Forum on Osteopathic Regulation in Europe.
17. Discussions on the merger process have now concluded and the merger of the two organisations into a new body: the European Federation and Forum for Osteopathy (EFO), should take place in March following joint AGMs of the two bodies.
18. It is anticipated that the GOsC will not be a full member of EFO, but will join as an associate member and play a role in continuing to support the development of regulation in Europe, and contributing to projects such as the future revision of the CEN standard on osteopathy.
19. The realisation of the merger concludes an outstanding item from the 2010-13 GOsC Corporate Plan.

## **Brexit**

20. We continue to monitor progress with Brexit negotiations and any impact this might have on our work. We have been invited to attend a meeting with the Department of Health, along with other regulators, later this month and will report back any significant developments to Council.

## **Other meetings**

21. Recent meetings, calls, visits and speaking engagements by the Chief Executive and others include:
  - General Dental Council Policy and Research Board
  - Inter-regulatory Performance group
  - GMC Horizon scanning workshop
  - West Counties Osteopathic Society
  - Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch
  - Dr Kerstin Rolfe, Chair, COEI
  - EFO/FORE merger working group
  - University College of Osteopathy (UCO) graduation ceremony
  - Charles Hunt, Vice-Chancellor, UCO
  - Osteopathic Foundation Board
  - Osteopathy defence organisations/insurers
  - Professional Standards Authority Performance review team
  - Pat Hamilton, principal, College of Osteopaths
  - Osteopathic Development Group
  - Institute of Osteopathy strategy day
  - FORE meeting, Tallinn
  - OPS Review Stakeholder Reference Group

- Chief Executives' Steering Group

### **Progress against the 2017-18 Business Plan**

22. Annex A provides a progress report on the 2017-18 Business Plan at the end of Q3
23. We have identified a small number of projects where there is currently slippage:
  - a. 1.2 – QA Review – minor delay in publishing proposals for consultation
  - b. 1.2 – boundaries research – minor delay in completing initial literature review
  - c. 1.3 – Rule 19 Practice Note – minor delay to consideration of draft practice note
  - d. 1.3 – bank of conditions – removed from plan
  - e. 3.2 – Integra – slipped to 2018-19 due to staff changes
24. Activities that will not conclude in 2017-18 have been incorporated into the draft 2018-19 Business Plan.

### **Financial report**

25. The financial position at the end of Q3 2017-18 can be found at Annex B.

**Recommendations:** to note the contents of the report.