



Meeting of Council

Minutes of the 115th Meeting of Council (Public) meeting, held in-person and online, Tuesday 10 May 2022, at Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3LU, and via the online meeting platform Go-to-Meeting

Confirmed

Chair: Dr Bill Gunnyeon

Present: Daniel Bailey
Sarah Botterill
Elizabeth Elander
Caroline Guy
Simeon London
Dr Denis Shaughnessy
Deborah Smith

Presenting: Steven Bettles, Policy Manager, Professional Standards
Fiona Browne, Director, Education, Standards and Development
David Bryan, Regulation Manager (Item 8)
Sheleen McCormack, Director of Fitness to Practise
Matthew Redford, Chief Executive and Registrar
Maxine Supersaud, Head of Resources and Assurance

In Attendance: Rachel Heatley, Senior Policy and Research Officer
Liz Niman, Head of Communications, Engagement and Insight
Marcia Scott, Council and Executive Support Officer

Observers: Collette Byrne, Scrutiny Officer, Professional Standards Authority (PSA)
Ben Chambers, Senior Registration Officer
Maurice Cheng, Chief Executive, Institute of Osteopathy
Fiona Hamilton, Principal, London School of Osteopathy
Katsi Yuen, UCO Student

Item 1: Welcome and apologies

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. A special welcome was extended to Council Associate members Shireen Ismail and Harriet Lambert, who were attending their first meeting in the newly established role.
2. Apologies were received from Professor Deborah Bowman.

Item 2: Questions from Observers

3. There were no questions from the observers.

Item 3: Minutes of the meeting 9 February 2022

4. The minutes of the 114th meeting, 9 February 2022, were agreed as a correct record.

Item 4: Matters arising

5. Item 10: National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR) funding proposal: Practice-based research network: It was noted that this item would be presented to Council at a future meeting.

Noted: Council noted the Matters Arising.

Item 5: Chair's Report

6. The Chair gave an update on the activities undertaken since the meeting of February 2022.
7. The key messages and following points were highlighted:
 - a. The recruitment process to appoint a lay member of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) concluded in March 2022. The recommendation to appoint Sue Ware as a Lay Member of the PCC was agreed by Council via email outside of the normal meeting cycle.
 - b. A bi-lateral meeting was held between the GOsC and the Institute of Osteopathy (iO). Following discussions about the iO's work it is hoped that there will be an opportunity for the iO to give a presentation to Council on its activity including the evolving careers project.
 - c. The reopened campaign to appoint a new Council member, Northern Ireland, had gone well with 15 full applications received. Shortlisting has taken place and five candidates will be interviewed in-person at Osteopathy House towards the end of May 2022.
 - d. Two Council members whose terms end 31 March 2023, are both eligible for reappointment for a further year to 31 March 2024. The Remuneration and Appointments Committee (RaAC) considered the advantages of an open and closed reappointment process. It was concluded that the recommendation to Council should be to agree a closed process to reappoint the members for a further year.
 - e. Preparations for the Council and Committee Annual Performance Reviews for the period 2021-2022 would commence in May. The Council and Executive Support Officer would be contacting members to begin arrangements for meetings.

8. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:

Council Member Reappointments

- a. Denis Shaughnessy and Sarah Botterill declared interests and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of the discussion.
- b. It was acknowledged the reappointment would result in a larger number of appointments to be made in 2024 and had been considered by the RaAC. In making the recommendation the Committee had noted the need to maintain the stability of Council following a period of uncertainty and that both members have recently taken up Chair roles of the Audit and People Committees.

Agreed: Council agreed to a closed reappointment process for two members of Council who are eligible for reappointment from 1 April 2023.

Noted: Council noted the update on the appointment of a Council member, Northern Ireland.

Noted: Council noted the recommendation to appoint Sue Ware to the position of lay member of the Professional Conduct Committee for a period of four years from 1 April 2022, agreed outside of Council's normal meeting cycle

Noted: Council noted the recommendation to change the name of the Remuneration and Appointments Committee to People Committee and to update its Terms of Reference, agreed outside of its normal meeting cycle,

Noted: Council noted the arrangements for the Annual Performance Review round of meetings for the period 2021-2022:

- **The Chair would conduct the reviews for members of Council, the Council Associates, the External Lay Member of the People Committee and FtP Chairs.**
- **The Chair of the Audit Committee would conduct the reviews for the two External Lay Members of the Committee.**
- **The Chair of the Policy and Education Committee would conduct the reviews for the two external Registrant and two external lay Members of the Committee.**

Agreed: Council agreed, in private and independent of the Chair, that Sarah Botterill and Caroline Guy would conduct the Annual Performance Review of the Chair of Council.

Item 6: Chief Executive's Report

9. The Chief Executive introduced the item which gave a review of activities and performance since the last meeting February 2022, and not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
10. The key messages and following points were highlighted:
 - a. The update from the Charity Commission to consider the potential for an increase in cyber-attacks has been noted, and there is already a workstream in place to enhance existing systems.
 - b. The GOsC attended the Institute of Osteopathy workshop on Evolving Careers and the Osteopathic Foundation strategy development day.
 - c. There has been engagement with osteopaths and students in a variety of settings. This includes final-year students as they approach the point of applying for registration and the GOsC will be attending the Institute of Osteopathy roadshows which are being held between May and October 2022.
 - d. The Registration Manager, Brenda Buckingham, will be retiring towards the end of 2022 and was commended for her work during 15 years of service. Ben Chambers, currently Senior Registration Officer, has been successfully appointed as the new Registration Manager.
 - e. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion pilot to date has gone well with a good response. A formal analysis of EDI will be presented at the June meeting of the Policy and Education Committee. Key findings to date are:
 - the data is representative of society as distinct from the osteopathic profession.
 - There is an almost 50% split of those respondents who feel it is important to raise issues relating to EDI against those who do not feel there are issues of concern, that the data should not be collected, and have a lack of trust in the collection of the data.
 - Examples of discrimination have been shared by respondents including in education and in practise.
 - f. The Executive are considering the need to lengthen the timelines for some business plan activities as the staff team has been impacted by absences including from COVID-19. This will continue to be reviewed and reported to Council in more detail at future meetings.

11. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:
- a. On behalf of Council and the Committees the Chair acknowledged and thanked Brenda for her service to the GOsC and offered his congratulations to Ben on his appointment.
 - b. Business Plan: In response to a question on the risk posed to core functions due to slippage in activity Council was advised that there is always a risk, but the Executive are satisfied that, to date, core functions have not been impacted and are expected to remain so going forward. If an impact on core functions is identified this will be raised with Council at the earliest opportunity.
 - c. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: It was suggested that the lack of trust in the collection of data was two-fold; the collection of EDI data itself and that the pilot coincides with the conclusion of the CPD cycle. It was acknowledged that some of the communications have not been well received and work is ongoing to improve information and communications to assist and assure registrants who are completing the CPD process. Physical engagement with the profession is a priority and will be increasing throughout the year as well as continuing the online sessions.
 - d. Options for the EDI strategy are to be presented to the Policy and Education Committee for consideration at its meeting in June.
 - e. Members commented on and acknowledged the change in tone of the e-bulletin which was considered less confrontational and much more sensitive and supportive. The Communications team were congratulated on their work to achieve this.
12. Financial Report: The Head of Resources and Assurance introduced the report setting out the financial position for the year end 31 March 2022. Council was informed that the GOsC is operating a surplus as expected. The budget was approved by Council in January 2021, and the position has remained stable with no significant loss of income due to the continuing pandemic and uncertainty. The investments have recovered and the GOsC position is a good.
13. The Chair acknowledged the prudence demonstrated by the Executive in managing the financial position and that the organisation has continued to function under challenging circumstances.

Noted: Council noted the Chief Executives Report

Item 7: Registration Report

14. The Chief Executive introduced the report which provided an update on activity covering the six-month period from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

15. The key messages and following points were highlighted:

- a. At the end of March 2021 there were 5,471 osteopaths on the Register.
- b. The number of non-practising registrants stood at 160 at the end of March 2022, which was down on a peak of 330 during the height of the pandemic. The figure of 160 is now in line with our pre-pandemic average, demonstrating the Register has returned to a more traditional arrangement.
- c. Middlesex University has been commissioned to undertake registration data modelling based on data held. It is hoped this data will allow the GOsC to predict what the future of the Register will look like based on current data and student intake. The results of this work will be presented to Council at a future meeting.
- d. Response times against emails submitted to the student and registration email inboxes have been assessed and are in-line with service level agreements.

16. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:

- a. Members were advised that in relation to Brexit, EU and overseas applicant numbers have remained consistent for those applying through international registration pathways. Brexit does not appear to have had an impact on the GOsC processes, but this will continue to be monitored for any change. A further consideration for continued monitoring is the possible reduction in the number of EU/overseas students and the impact this could have on the Osteopathic Education Institutions.
- b. The question as to whether the GOsC international registration pathway process could be more streamlined was noted and is an area which has been considered by the Policy and Education Committee and remains under review.
- c. It was confirmed that data relating to individuals and non-compliance with the requirements of the register is captured under the report heading 'Removals from the Register'. In relation to the demographics the age range is captured but wider analysis is not currently undertaken and would be considered when the response on registration modelling is returned from Middlesex University. It was agreed additional data could help to identify 'at risk' individuals who are removed from the register and might need additional support.
- d. Members were informed that the issue of Ukrainian health professionals who are unable to register and to work is currently being considered by all health regulators, but it is not something which has impacted the GOsC as yet, although this may change in the future. The key is ensuring individuals are

safe to practise and methods in how to achieve this would have to be carefully considered.

- e. Members were advised that there a number of email addresses which can be used to access members of the Registration Team. As well as staff email addresses these include, registration@osteopathy.org.uk, student@osteopathy.org.uk, and cpdva@osteopathy.org.uk. All incoming emails to these addresses, and to individual email addresses, generate an automated response which includes service level information, but response times are dependent on the type of enquiry.
- f. It was explained that the total number of FtP removals for male registrants (24) related to the number removed from the register from 2011 up to the present day and are all linked to cases where boundaries have been breached. Transgressions of this type are predominantly higher for male than for female practitioners. It was noted that a comparison of the GOsC data against similar data of other health professions might be interesting.

Noted: Council noted the content of the Registration Report.

Item 8: Fitness to Practise Report

- 17. This item presented Council with the quarterly update on the work of the Regulation Department and the GOsC Fitness to Practise committees.
- 18. The key messages and following points were highlighted:
 - a. Meetings and hearings continue to be listed and held remotely ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all participants but also, where necessary, by the means of 'blended' hearings. During this review period the first three days of an eight-day substantive hearing in person was held at Osteopathy House.
 - b. At the time of writing, 4 of the 18 cases referred by the Investigating Committee (IC) to the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) have been listed.
 - c. In this reporting period, the same number of concerns as the previous quarter (14 concerns) were received. 12 cases were made formal in this reporting period.
 - d. The KPI's have been exceeded at the screener stage however neither the IC nor PCC KPIs in this quarter have been met.
 - e. The next FtP webinar is scheduled for 17 May 2022 and will include Victim Support to highlight and answer questions on the Independent Support Service offered to all participants, including osteopaths, at all stages in a fitness to practice investigation.

19. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:

- a. In response to a question relating to the rise in the number of 'Formal Complaints open' it was explained that this was in part due to more cases becoming formal. The rise in number was not regarded as cause for concern and was expected to fall as more hearings are scheduled and cases closed.
- b. Members were advised that a breakdown of FtP statistics based on each of the devolved nations, although it might be useful, the numbers returned would not be significant. It was noted that a study had been commissioned in 2016 to consider the characteristics of osteopaths involved in FtP proceedings. Results of the study did not provide any substantial data in relation to country breakdown for fitness to practise cases. It was added in relation to ftp data on registrants the National Council for Osteopathic Education (NCOR) does hold data which includes the allegation type, age, year of qualification, and nation.
- c. Members were advised that it would not be appropriate to comment further on the three Interim Suspension Orders (ISOs) which had not been granted and details had been set out in the paper.
- d. It was noted that due to concerns about the applying ISOs an independent audit was commissioned the outcome of which it was found there were no cases where applications had failed to be appropriately considered. A result of the audit was that a number of recommendations were made including the revision of the guidance, updating the practice note on undertakings and training for the Investigating Committee, all of which will take place during the next year. A restart of Determinations Review Group meetings is also being considered which would allow for inter-regulatory consideration of determinations.
- e. The GOsC's statutory scheme provides only one area in which the IC can impose an ISO which is public protection. Other regulators have a wider remit which includes public interest and registrant's interest. Other regulators can also impose interim conditions. It is not within the GOsC remit to impose interim conditions and therefore undertakings have been created in place of interim conditions with amended practice notes to ensure appropriate implementation.

Noted: Council noted the Fitness to Practise Report.

Item 9: Fitness to Practise Publication Policy

20. Council was invited to consider the discussion paper on the General Osteopathic Council's Fitness to Practise publication policy and agree the position relating to:

- publishing interim order determinations and
- final determinations where a registrant is voluntarily removed from the Register

21. The key messages and following were highlighted:

- The GOsC has a Fitness to Practise Publication Policy which has been in place since 2013. The policy focusses on the length of time that notices of decisions should appear on the public website.
- The policy provides that Investigating Committee (IC) decisions to impose an Interim Suspension Order (ISO) should be publicised and a note of the suspension should be made against the registrant's entry on the online register.
- The policy states that Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) ISO decisions should be published, and a note of the interim suspension should be made against the registrant's entry on the register.
- The policy distinguishes between the two different types of ISOs that can be imposed by the Professional Conduct Committee.
- A registrant can request removal from the Register of osteopaths (the Register) at any time. This is a process called voluntary removal
- The FtP publication policy is silent as to whether the written determination pertaining to individuals who request and are granted voluntary removal after their substantive hearing has concluded are also removed from the website.
- The publication of FtP decisions will generally be in the public interest.
- The discussion paper has been prepared for Council to consider the approach to publishing ISO determinations and final determinations where the registrant is granted voluntary removal.
- The recommendation that GOsC will publish a summary only of the outcome for and PCC and IC ISO decisions. In summary, this is because:
 - Publishing decisions enables members of the public, including current and future patients, employers, and colleagues, to know when there has been concern about an osteopath's fitness to practise.
 - A summary of the ISO decision provides sufficient information of the concerns without risking contamination of any external third-party investigations and protects the rights of the registrant in circumstances where no findings of fact have been made against them
- The recommendation that the FtP Publication Policy is amended so that the GOsC will continue to publish an FtP determination and sanction, for the length specified within the FtP publication policy, for those individuals who

have been granted voluntary removal by the Registrar following a final hearing. In summary, this is because:

- Members of the public can then see that the former osteopath faced a professional conduct or professional incompetence hearing as this will be put on public record.
- It supports the wider public interest in the publishing of sanctions by maintaining public confidence in the osteopathic profession and declare and upholding proper standards of conduct and competence amongst the osteopathic profession

22. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:

- a. Members considered that publishing the facts in detail might be disproportionate as the individual might then be exonerated at the conclusion of the hearing process. It was suggested that a solution might be to issue an interim order which advises that further information would not be available until the final decision is determined. Although agreed it was questioned whether this would be sufficient for patients and/or the public who might want to know what the order relates to when making a decision about visiting an osteopath.
- b. It was highlighted that the current policy has resulted in requests from potential witnesses who want to raise similar grievances against an individual based on what has been published. It was also recognised there needed to be care in publishing facts due to the potential impact on any 'live' police investigation relating to individual who is subject to the investigating process.
- c. It was suggested that a summary of a complaint/allegation might be a suggested way forward, but this would have to be prepared independently by the Investigating Committee. This approach would require the agreement of Council.
- d. It was noted that to date there was no evidence that the publication scheme had had a detrimental impact on individuals under investigation. It was noted that amongst other regulators there was only one other with a similar publication scheme.
- e. A view put forward was that there is no difference, in principle, between an osteopath who voluntarily removes themselves from the register and one who is removed by the GOsC, therefore removal data held for five-years after voluntary removal should become invalid. The issue was one of compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and, if the scheme remained unchanged, the legality of publishing details of investigations. It was explained that in considering the GOsC's statutory purpose, to protect the public and to act in the public interest, the reasons for publication in relation to voluntary removal could be justified for the stipulated period of five-years

as it closes a loophole for individuals who might choose to start a new practice under a different guise.

- f. Members commented that some of the language used in the examples was quite technical in legal terms and perhaps could be made clearer.

23. In summary the Chair commented:

- The paper was very helpful and clear in what was required from Council.
- There was a need for the policy to be clear for all readers including patients, the public and stakeholders.

24. Members of Council were invited to submit any further comments to the Executive.

Noted: Council considered the discussion paper on the Fitness to Practise Publication Policy and agreed:

Agreed: To amend the FtP Publication Policy so that GOsC will publish a summary only of the outcome for and PCC and IC ISO decisions.

Agreed: To amend the FtP Publication Policy so that GOsC will continue to publish the FtP determination, for the length specified within the FtP publication policy, for those individuals who have been granted voluntary removal by the Registrar following a final hearing.

Item 10: Section 32 Enforcement Policy Statement

25. The Chief Executive introduce the item which invited Council to consider and agree the amendments made to the GOsC Protection of Title Enforcement Policy Statement following a rapid review by the Executive of the Policy approved by Council in November 2014.

26. The key messages and following points were highlighted:

- A rapid review of the GOsC's Section 32 Enforcement Policy which had not been considered for a number of years was conducted.
- Amendments have been made that enhance, but do not change, our position.
- The key changes are:
 - reference to the overarching statutory objective to protect the public, and
 - the addition of an appendix containing case studies where offenders have been successfully prosecuted in the past.

27. Council agreed that the addition of case examples was helpful and had no further comments regarding the amendments to the Protection of Title Enforcement Policy Statement.

Agreed: Council agreed the amendments made to the GOsC Protection of Title Enforcement Policy Statement.

Item 11: Remote Hearings Guidance and Protocol

28. Council was invited to consider and agree the amended draft Remote Hearings Guidance and Protocol following a public consultation held between 15 February - 5 April 2022.

29. The key messages and following points were highlighted:

- a. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of national restrictions in March 2020, the GOsC fitness to practise hearings were held in-person at Osteopathy House, London.
- b. The Interim Remote Hearings Protocol, approved by Council in July 2020, was introduced as an interim measure to enable the GOsC continue to fulfil its statutory function and progress fitness to practise hearings during the Covid 19 pandemic and lockdowns.
- c. As part of the pre-consultation activity, the experiences of remote hearings both at the GOsC and other jurisdictions were carefully evaluated. Comprehensive literature review of existing protocols and guidance within other jurisdictions, including the civil and criminal courts were also conducted.
- d. Feedback was actively sought from all participants post-hearing to ensure that any improvements identified are proactively addressed and incorporated within the new draft guidance and protocol.
- e. The Executive are looking to set and implement a roadmap for the future. Although remote and hybrid hearings do have a place for conducting proceedings it is not the intention that they become permanent resource but be useful options in appropriate circumstances.

30. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:

- a. It was confirmed that if approved the amended guidance is to be implemented as soon as it is possible.
- b. Members endorsed the amendments noting that overall, the remote model has and continues to work well allowing for more flexibility for participation in meetings.

- c. It was noted that other regulators are seeking rule changes in order to add remote hearings permanently to their rules. The GOsC has not sought to make rule changes but the guidance which has been developed provides transparency in its approach to meeting and hearings in a remote setting.
- d. It was explained that the term 'public users' encompasses all who are involved in the hearings process, panellists, registrants, and witnesses. It is currently planned for the GOsC listings questionnaire to be amended in order that all parties are given the opportunity to state their preference as to how a hearing is to be conducted and subsequently be considered as part of the listings process. It was noted that although the preferences of a registrant and/or their representative will be considered their consent will not be sought as to how a hearing will be conducted to avoid a veto by a given party. If there is an objection the guidance provides a mechanism which permits a written submission to be made to the Committee Chair who will then make the decision as to how the hearing is to be held.
- e. It was noted that an internal review of remote meeting platforms is to be undertaken with options for alternative platforms to be considered as preferences differ for the current applications currently in the use, Go-to-Meeting and MS Teams. It is acknowledged that the outcome of the review may result in the part of the guidance having to be rewritten.
- f. It was suggested there would be merit to build in a review of the model with a suggested timeframe two-years.

Agreed: Council agreed the draft Remote Hearings Guidance and Protocol.

Item 12: Graduate Outcomes and Standard for Education and Training

- 31. The Policy Manager introduced the item which concerned the publication of the Guidance for Pre-registration Osteopathic Education (GOPRE) and Standards for Education (SET).
- 32. The key messages and following points were highlighted:
 - a. The paper provided an analysis of the outcomes of the consultation on the Guidance for Pre-registration Education and Standards for Education and Training.
 - b. The outcomes of the consultation were considered with the Stakeholder Reference Group on 28 February 2022.
 - c. The updated draft GOPRE and SET reflecting the consultation outcomes as considered by the Stakeholder Reference Group was reported to the Policy and Education Committee on 4 April 2022.
 - d. The Committee discussed the reference within paragraph 62 to osteopathic education 'typically' including 1,000 hours of clinical practice, and graduates

having typically seen fifty new patients. The Committee were keen to strengthen the emphasis on the clinical hours, whilst also taking account of the quality of these. The revised wording of the paragraph was circulated and agreed by the Committee.

- e. PEC also agreed a change of name of GOPRE from 'Guidance' to 'Graduate Outcomes for osteopathic Pre-registration Education', and a statement added to the SET to confirm that the meeting of these standards is something that the Committee will wish to be satisfied on before advising Council to recognise a qualification as provided under the Osteopaths Act. This is consistent with The General Osteopathic Council (Recognition of Qualifications Rules) 2000.
- f. The EDI consultants have provided positive feedback on the Guidance and the equality impact assessment including the suggestion that the approach has found the right balance in the streamlining of examples within the guidance and developing a separate resource which will compliment student fitness to practise and health and disability guidance.
- g. It is planned to publish the report which will be promoted through a number of GOsC and stakeholder channels. The aim is to ensure that all stakeholders and the profession are aware of the guidance, which will help explain the role of the GOsC as distinguished from the role of the Institute of Osteopathy (iO), to demonstrate that the GOsC's values are aligned with that of the profession, and to discuss the collaborative process to develop the guidance.

33. In discussion the following points were made and responded to:

- a. Members congratulated the team on the work undertaken to date and endorsed the GOPRE and SET.
- b. It was confirmed that the guidance would be published in Welsh.
- c. It was explained that in relation to the most recent comments made by the EDI consultants there were no specific comments made regarding 'ableism'. The main themes related to the overuse of examples given in the outcomes where it was considered that the specific examples detracted from outcomes. It is planned that separate resource will be produced to provide more guidance and signposting on how the issues might impact in practise.
- d. A reference to ableism was noted which relates to an opinion piece by Andrew McMillan and discusses osteopathic principles being ableist in nature. It is considered that the guidance creates a set of outcomes which meets the needs of the profession to recognise its identity and uniqueness as a profession against developing a set of outcomes that reflect it as an allied health profession existing within the health care community. The feedback from stakeholder groups who had expressed concerns about the potential dilution of the osteopathic identity had said that the process has been collaborative, concerns had been listened to and that there was engagement

and reflection of issues. It is hoped that a point has now been reached where there is a balance and consensus between specific tensions.

34. On behalf of Council the Chair thanked the Executive and the members of the Policy and Education Committee for the work in developing the Guidance and Standards. There was special recognition for the work and thoroughness of Steven Bettles and his achievement in completing the project.

Noted: Council noted the agreement of the Policy and Education Committee to the change of name to Graduate Outcomes for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education and Standards for Education and Training.

Noted: Council noted the agreement of the Standards for Education and Training and Graduate Outcomes for Osteopathic Pre-Registration Education as the statement of the Committee under Rule 3 of the General Osteopathic Council (Recognition of Qualifications) Rules 2000.

Agreed: Council agreed to publish the Graduate Outcomes for Pre-registration Osteopathic Education and the Standards for Education and Training for implementation from 1 September 2022.

Item 13: Initial recognition of the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy (BCNO) Group Recognised Qualification and renewal of recognition of existing recognised qualifications.

35. Shireen Ismail and Simeon London declared interest and did not participate for the duration of the discussion.

36. The Policy Manager introduced the item which concerned the British College of Naturopathy and Osteopathy (BCON) Group seeking initial recognition of qualifications for the:

- Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost)
- BSc (Hons) Osteopathy, BSc (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine

and renewal of recognition for the existing qualifications previously awarded by the BCOM and ESO and from September 2021 to be awarded by BCNO Group namely the:

- Master of Osteopathy and BSc (Hons) Osteopathy (formerly awarded by the ESO)
- Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) (formerly awarded by the BCOM)

37. The key messages and following points were highlighted:

- The British College of Osteopathic Medicine and The European School of Osteopathy merged from 1 September 2021, under the new institution of the BCNO Group.

- The BCNO Group's existing RQ programmes are being taught out, and a new joint programme has been designed for delivery at each location from September 2022.
- An RQ visit took place in January 2022 to carry out an initial review of this new joint programme, and to also consider existing RQ programmes within this process.
- The visitors report recommended approval for the programmes with three specific conditions. This was considered by the Policy and Education Committee in April 2022.
- The Committee agreed to recommend that Council:
 - recognise the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and the BSc (Hons) Osteopathy, BSc (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine awarded by the BCNO Group, and
 - renew the recognition of the Master of Osteopathy and BSc (Hons) Osteopathy (formerly awarded by the ESO) and the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) (formerly awarded by the BCOM) now to be awarded by BCNO Group, from 1 September 2021 to 30 August 2026 subject to the Conditions outlined at paragraph 10, and subject to the approval of the Privy Council.

38. It was confirmed the awarding dates, subject to conditions, should read from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026.

39. Sarah Botterill, who Chaired the PEC for the discussion of this item, informed Council that issues concerning the timescales had been discussed in depth and was content to endorse the recommendations.

40. Council had no further comments and agreed the recommendations as set out.

Agreed: Council agreed to recognise the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and the BSc (Hons) Osteopathy, BSc (Hons) Osteopathic Medicine awarded by the BCNO Group from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026 subject to the Conditions outlined at paragraph 10, subject to the approval of the Privy Council.

Agreed: Council agreed to renew the recognition of the Master of Osteopathy and BSc (Hons) Osteopathy (formerly awarded by the ESO) and the Masters in Osteopathy (M.Ost) and Bachelors in Osteopathic Medicine (B.OstMed) (formerly awarded by the BCOM) now to be awarded by BCNO Group from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026 subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 10, and subject to the approval of the Privy Council.

Item 14: London School of Osteopathy (LSO): Removal of Recognised Qualification expiry date

41. The Policy manager introduced the item which concerned the removal of expiry date for the recognised qualification awarded by the London School of Osteopathy.
42. The key messages and following points were highlighted:
 - a. The London School of Osteopathy (LSO) Recognised Qualification (RQ) visit took place in October 2018. The recommendation of the Visitors for the programmes was approval without conditions.
 - b. The Policy and Education Committee (PEC) monitored and reviewed various issues in relation to LSO delivery including areas for development recommended in the RQ Visit Report and arising from annual reporting, and a concern raised in 2021, and is now satisfied that these are all addressed.
 - c. The PEC recommended that Council recognise the qualifications awarded by the LSO with no conditions and no expiry date.
43. Council made no further comments regarding the LSO and the removal of the RQ expiry date.

Agreed: Council agreed to recognise the qualifications Master of Osteopathy and Bachelor of Osteopathy, (full and part time) awarded by the London School of Osteopathy with no expiry date and with no specific conditions and to seek approval of the recognition from the Privy Council.

Item15: Minutes of the Audit Committee: 24 March 2022

44. The Chair of the Audit Committee had no additional comments relating to the meeting of 24 March. He asked that Council note:
 - a. Items for considerations at the next meeting of the Audit Committee would include:
 - The Cloud Engagement Project to upgrade and improve IT systems.
 - Risk and Risk Appetite.
 - b. A discussion with the members of the Audit Committee will take place to consider asking Council if there are any items it wishes to include on the Audit Committee for discussion. Council agreed this would be a welcome move.

Noted: Council noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee, March 2022.

Item 16: Minutes of the Remuneration and Appointments Committee, 24 March 2022

45. The Chair had no additional comments relating to the meeting of 24 March.

Noted: Council noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Remuneration and Appointments Committee, March 2022.

Item 17: Minutes of the Policy and Education Committee meetings 9 March and 4 April 2022

46. There were no comments or observations relating to the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Education Committee meeting for March and the supplemental meeting in April.

47. Sarah Botterill who, due to unforeseen circumstances, had stepped in to act as Chair for the meeting of 4 April, thanked the Executive and PEC members for their support.

Noted: Council noted the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Education Committee meetings for 9 March and 4 April 2022.

Item 18: Any other business

48. The Chair sought members initial feedback on the agenda. The following comments were noted:

- a. Members commented that they are happy with the Council agenda and documents presented for its consideration.
- b. It was commented that the actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact over the past two-years had demonstrated that Council, and its committees, could be reassured that business could, as far as possible, continue as usual.
- c. It was acknowledged that a considerable amount of work went into producing Council and committee documents. Members were asked to consider whether there were areas in which Council could better assist the Executive or should consider in more depth when preparing for meetings and subsequent discussion/s.

49. Council was invited to further consider and share feedback with the Chair. Further discussion would take place at a future meeting.

Item 19: Questions from observers

50. There were no additional questions from the observers.

Date of the next meeting: 14 July 2022 at 10.00