

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Public Session** of the 79th meeting of the General Osteopathic Council
Wednesday 20 March 2013

Confirmed

Chair: Alison White

Present:

John Chaffey
John Chuter
Jorge Esteves
Jonathan Hearsey
Ian Hughes
Kim Lavelly

Brian McKenna
Kenneth McLean
Haidar Ramadan
Julie Stone
Jenny White

In attendance:

Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards
Alan Currie, Head of MIS
Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager, Item 15
Sarah Eldred, Communications Manager, Item 17
Matthew Redford, Head of Finance and Administration/Acting Head of Registration
Marcia Scott, Council and Executive Support Officer
Velia Soames, Head of Regulation
Brigid Tucker, Head of Policy and Communications
Tim Walker, Chief Executive and Registrar

Observers

Mark Eames – Council Member designate
Colin Coulson-Thomas – Council Member designate
Michael Watson, Chief Executive of the British Osteopathic Association
Maurice Cheng, Chief Executive Designate of the British Osteopathic Association

Welcome and opening comments

1. The Chair welcomed Mark Eames and Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas, both of whom had recently been appointed as members of Council and would formally take up their roles on 1 April.

2. The Chair also welcomed Michael Watson, Chief Executive of the British Osteopathic Association (BOA), and Maurice Cheng, Chief Executive Designate of the BOA.
3. It was noted this would be the final meeting for Michael Watson attending as the BOA Chief Executive and observer. The Chair, on behalf of the GOsC, thanked him for his contributions to the meetings of Council and wished him well for the future.

Item 1 – Apologies

4. An apology for absence was received from Nick Hounsfield who submitted comments on the agenda items to the Chair prior to the meeting. These would be taken into account during the course of discussions. It was also noted that, due to prior commitments, Mark Eames would leave before the close of the meeting.

Item 2 – Questions from observers

5. Michael Watson, Chief Executive of the BOA, raised the following questions:
 - a. Chief Executive and Registrar Report – Finance: the value of fixed assets on the GOsC Balance Sheet have decreased marginally in the financial year. The largest asset is Osteopathy House. Is there an estimate for the value of Osteopathy House? Is the market value likely to be higher than shown and should the GOsC arrange for a valuation and establish a revaluation reserve on the Balance Sheet?
 - b. Leeds Metropolitan University (LMU) – Recognised Qualification: the QAA Report shows that one of the areas for the development is for an increase in the diversity of patient profile. It is an important issue as non-exposure could leave gaps in student training. How does the GOsC intend to address this?
 - c. Continuing Fitness to Practice Update: how does the GOsC intend to consult registrants beyond the 800 who attended the regional conferences, when there is further consultation about revalidation later in 2013?
6. The Chief Executive responded to the questions as follows:
 - a. Chief Executive and Registrar Report – Finance: the valuation of Osteopathy House on the balance sheet is consistent with audit requirements although it is recognised that the market value may in fact be above that shown. Careful consideration would need to be given as to whether a revaluation should take place. The Head of Finance advised that a valuation would be expensive and the cost may not be a good use of registrants' fees.

- b. Leeds Metropolitan University – Recognised Qualification (RQ): this was the first time that an institution's RQ would be discussed as a public item by Council and the openness and transparency should be welcomed. The University was also congratulated on receiving its RQ status.

It was recognised that diversity of patients is an important factor for institutions and attention was drawn to paragraph 34, page 11 of the report which stated that students would welcome a more diverse patient profile. The Education Committee would also to continue to monitor progress in this area.

- c. Continuing Fitness to Practice Update: the Chief Executive considered the responses to the GOsC's consultations as positive taking into account the size of the GOsC in comparison to other regulators. The quality of data received was more important than a greater response from a wider area. The key was to ensure that, with the involvement and in partnership with stakeholders including the BOA, improvements could be implemented as a result of wider engagement.

7. The Chair invited Maurice Cheng, CE Designate of the BOA, to give a brief personal introduction. Mr Cheng gave a brief description of his career to date informing Council of what he hoped to bring to the BOA and the profession through his knowledge and experience. Mr Cheng said it was exciting time to be part of the profession and looked forward to continuing to build on relationships and working with the GOsC and other stakeholders in the future.
8. The Chief Executive and Registrar thanked Michael Watson on behalf of the GOsC and gave a brief reflection on his career including his time as a staff member of the GOsC and his contribution in developing partnerships and building the profile of the osteopathic profession.
9. Michael Watson responded saying how much he had enjoyed his 11 years with the BOA . He highlighted the current work on the development of the profession and the shared vision of stakeholders which showed how much the profession had moved forward. Michael Watson would continue to be involved in development of the profession through his continuing work with FORE and EFO where he hoped to replicate the achievements of osteopathy in the UK to further the profession's standing in Europe

Item 3 – Minutes and matters arising

10. The minutes of the public session of the Council meeting held on 13 December 2012 were **approved**.
11. There were no matters arising.

Item 4 – Chair’s report

12. The Chair gave an oral report to Council. The main points were:

- a. **Appointments and reappointments to Council and committees:** Members were reminded that the new appointment processes had been approved by the Professional Standards Authority and Council were assured that the Remuneration and Appointments Committee had reviewed these processes at their last meeting on 31 January. The minutes of the meeting were included as part of this Council’s agenda.
- b. As part of the appointment process the Privy Council had approved two new lay members, Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas and Mark Eames. To new members, attending the meeting as part of their induction, and the five members who had been re-appointed to Council, the Chair offered her formal congratulations and welcome.
- c. The Chair asked that the thanks of Council be formally recorded for the two retiring members, Professor Ian Hughes and John Chuter, both of whom had served on Council with great distinction and commitment, and really made their mark with the Committees they had chaired (Education and Finance and General Purposes Committees respectively). The Chair and Council wished them well for the future.
- d. **Development of the profession meetings:** the Chair had attended a number of meetings relating to the future development of the profession. The Chair was pleased to inform Council of the excellent progress that has been made in defining a vision and outline action plan to underpin this development.
- e. **Regional Communications Network meeting:** on Friday 15 March, the Chair attended and chaired the meeting of regional society representatives at Osteopathy House. The major subject on the agenda was on the opportunities for capacity building in the regions. Council was informed that some useful ideas emerged from the discussions, and which the Executive would be taking forward. It was suggested that Council would wish to continue to be influential as this work begins to be developed in more practical terms.
- f. **Fitness to practise processes:** at the meeting of Council in December 2012, the Chair had mentioned the work being conducted concerning the operation of the GOsC fitness-to-practise processes, in response to the

expressed wishes of Council to become more influential in this area. As part of the discussions at the seminar session, the focus will be specifically on this area, giving Council the opportunity to build its understanding and give further thought to how it would like to be more involved and influential in these processes in the future.

- g. **HRH The Prince of Wales – Patronage of the GOsC:** as reported to Council previously, a letter had been written to His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, about his continuing patronage. A response to the letter had been received from his Private Secretary advising that it would be no longer possible for it to continue. The Chair asked that Council join her in thanking HRH for his past patronage and his interest in the GOsC.
- h. **Council members annual reviews:** the Chair reminded members that preparations had been made for their annual reviews in the coming months. In accordance with Council's wishes, the annual review process had been simplified while retaining its focus on personal development. Members were encouraged to seek feedback from at least one other person before the sessions took place to help consider any development needs in order to discuss these at the meetings. The Chair also asked that Council agree two members (one lay and one registrant) to be appointed to conduct her own annual review. Once an agreement was reached members were asked to advise the Chair of their decision after which arrangements would be made for her own appraisal meeting.
- i. **Council effectiveness review:** the Chair informed Council that following suggestions to consider Council Effectiveness she had conducted some research on current best practice in order to design a proportionate approach. Some ideas had already been tested with assistance from the Chief Executive and a proposal would be brought to the meeting of Council in June for consideration with a view to conducting a review of effectiveness later this year.
- j. **Professional Standards Authority (PSA) symposium:** the Chair and the Chief Executive attended the PSA annual symposium, which this year focused on the regulatory response to the Francis Report. There were a number of thought-provoking speakers including systems regulators such as the Care Quality Commission. The Executive is currently considering the report insofar as it has implications for osteopathic regulation and it would be considered in more depth at the Council meeting in June.
- k. **Meeting of Council – 20 June 2013:** members were advised that the agenda for the June meeting of would include a lot more business than

normal. Members were asked to plan for a finish of business one hour later than usual at 5pm and that they should arrange their travel accordingly.

The Chair's Report was noted

Item 5 – Chief Executive's report

13. The Chief Executive introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- a. Development of the profession: there have been further successful meetings of the working group looking at the development of the profession. The group has agreed a 'development agenda for UK osteopathy' which includes a list of eight core project areas where there is consensus that activity needs to take place. The group agreed a statement, which has been circulated to all osteopaths, published in *The Osteopath* magazine, and also through the BOA and others' websites.

At a further meeting the group met to consider how to take the eight projects forward and which of the five organisations – BOA, COEI, NCOR, OA and the GOsC – are to be involved in each of them. In due course consideration will need to be given as to how best to involve Council with the work on these projects.

It had also been indicated there might be support for the development activities with financial contributions from the GOsC. A proposal is to be brought to Council's June meeting.

- b. Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Performance Review: after submitting further information relating to the annual Performance Review the follow up meeting with the PSA, on 4 March, went very well and a positive final report on the GOsC was expected towards the end of June.
- c. Appointments: the Chief Executive informed members that following the discovery that an Investigating Committee member's term of office had expired but they had unknowingly continued to sit on hearings, all necessary steps had been taken to write to registrants and/or their representatives who may have been affected by the oversight. Members were assured steps had been taken to ensure the error would not be repeated in future.
- d. Social media: members suggested it might be a good idea to set up two closed groups' pages on Facebook to allow communication outside of the public domain. With one page for registrants and the other for the regional

networks it would allow different communication styles to be presented and real time information to be shared.

Members were advised that the development of a social media user policy was underway for the proposed GOsC forum and would include advice on social media etiquette and best practice.

- e. Australia registration consultation: the Chief Executive clarified that there was no distinction between full and part-time RQs in the proposed Australian policy.
14. Business Plan monitoring:
- a. Members applauded the Chief Executive, SMT and staff on the work completed to date.
 - b. As a suggestion, members proposed that where long-term work/projects were timed as 'all year' if it would be possible to have representation of timescale included. This would give a better insight on progress for long-term areas of work. The Chief Executive advised that refinements of the monitoring document were ongoing and this would be reviewed.
15. Web services: The Chief Executive presented the item for decision and approval on the GOsC's web services.
16. As part of the ongoing IT development aspects of how the GOsC's websites work and are hosted had been under review. To improve and ensure the effectiveness of online services and to maintain an effective functioning online register and websites, it has been concluded further investment is required in web development.
17. There have been discussions with a number of suppliers, including the current provider, about two projects:
- a. 'Re-platforming' the websites onto a new content management system and;
 - b. Developing new online modules to provide more effective integration between the websites and the registration database and an improved user experience.
18. Members were advised no precise costing could be presented for the work as prices and requirements were being negotiated with a number of suppliers. As the cost was expected to be higher than the £50,000 limit for a normal tender procedure the Chair would be asked to review the procurement documentation.

19. Although the expenditure had been anticipated to be necessary a budget had not been set in advance of 2014-15. Members were reminded that as there was a significant underspend across the organisation in 2013-14, this surplus would be added to reserves and it was proposed the web development work, to take place in 2013-14, should be funded from reserves.
20. In discussion the following points were made:
- a. Members agreed with the proposal and wondered whether other regulators were in the same position with their IT systems and management. The Chief Executive advised members that the regulators used different systems and that this was not a shared problem. The Executive is looking at an open source approach to avoid the problems encountered with bespoke systems.
 - b. Members suggested that IT should be included in the list of Council competencies and were advised discussion on this would take place as part of an item later on the agenda.
- a) **Council agreed the approach proposed to the funding of further web development work;**
 - b) **Council agreed that the Chair would review the procurement process for the work on IT;**
 - c) **The remainder of the Chief Executive's report was noted.**

Item 6 – Fitness to practise report

21. The Head of Regulation introduced the item informing members that there was nothing of major significance to add to the update and it was requested that members note the report.
- a. A question was raised relating to funding with the rise in the number of hearings which were expected in the coming year and that of 2013-14. Members were advised that this had been taken into account in the budget for future hearings.

Council noted the Fitness to practise report.

Item 7 – Appointments and reappointments

22. The Chair introduced the item. Members were advised that as the appointed and reappointed Council members did not formally take up their post until 1 April their

appointments to committees could not be ratified prior to this date. Members agreed that an e-mail recommending the committee chair appointments for the Education and Registration Standards (ERSC) and the Osteopathic Practice (OPC) Committees would be circulated to members for agreement on or as near to 1 April as possible.

23. There was some concern about having adequate cross-over between committees. Members were reminded that this was, in part, the reason for the external appointments and the rationale for scheduling meetings on the same day to allow members to attend both meetings if they wish.
24. Members requested clarification of paragraph 28, page 7, about the Committee Chair appointments for the ERSC and OPC. The Chair reminded members that this was a consequence of the Constitution Order.
 - a) **Council noted and agreed recommendations 1-10 on the appointments and reappointments to Council and its committees as set out.**
 - b) **Council agreed the proposed approach to filling the vacancies for the external members of the OPC and to waive the quorum requirements for the May 2013 meeting.**
 - c) **Council agreed the proposed approach to the appointment of the ERSC and OPC Chairs.**

Item 8 – Business Plan 2013-14

25. The Chief Executive introduced the item and highlighted the inclusion of the Department of Health (England) consultation on indemnity arrangements for regulated healthcare professionals and the plans for Professional Indemnity Insurance Rules – Business Plan Annex, page14, section 3.5.
26. Members were advised that the proposed plan for changes in insurance indemnity rules stemmed from an EU Directive and would not make a difference to registrants though it would allow the GOsC to improve its current processes.

Council agreed the 2013-2014 Business Plan.

Item 9 – Revised Governance Handbook

27. The Chair introduced the item and thanked the Chief Executive for the considerable work done on revising the Handbook.

28. The Chief Executive thanked Members for the drafting amendments received to date and any further suggestions, comments and amendments would be welcomed.
29. In discussion the following points were made:
- a. Whistle blowing – Section 8, Paragraph 1, Page 54: members raised concerns about the accountability chain and where the Audit Committee Chair's accountability lay where a reporting issue might occur. It was advised this should be given further consideration to avoid a circular structure within Council. The Chief Executive advised that at present there was no external accountability and that this would be considered.
 - b. It was agreed the wording in paragraph 2 would be amended from '...then they should raise the matter concerned with the independent Chair of the Audit Committee' to '...then they should seek independent advice from the Chair of Audit Committee'. It was also agreed there should be clear contact details as to where independent advice should be sought.
 - c. Section 1- Chair of Council's role – Section 1.3 paragraph 2g page 29: members suggested the sentence should omit the words 'especially in all areas of equality, diversity and investment.'
 - d. Section 12 – Council Procedure – Section 15c: there was some concern that where Council accepted the complaint panel's decision, the subsequent report would be in the public arena giving rise to the possibility of disclosing personal information about an individual. Members felt there should be some flexibility in reporting. The Chief Executive informed members this was not a major issue and that there had been no real change to this section of the Handbook. It was also highlighted it would be at the discretion of the Chair whether the content of a report or item would be public or private.
 - e. Standing Orders – Access to Meetings paragraph 50 – the Chief Executive clarified the position that recording was under the proviso that the record was not permanent and that this included the use of personal electronic devices (iPads, e-notebooks etc) which were increasingly being used in meetings.
 - f. The Chair suggested further review of the Governance Handbook by Members and any further clarifications, amendments and suggestions be sent to the Chief Executive by week ending Friday 29 April.

Subject to the suggested corrections/amendments, Council agreed the revisions to Governance Handbook.

Item 10 – Revision of Council Member Competencies

30. The Chief Executive and Registrar introduced the item explaining the competencies were still work in progress and there would be further fleshing out of attributes in subsequent presentations. Members were invited to provide feedback on the proposals set out in the paper.
31. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a) Although comments on IT would be incorporated, Members advised that the suggested competency was not solely about IT but understanding how systems interacted with business. Business improvements were not only dependent on who installs and implements but also on the provider's knowledge of the business with which they were dealing. It was, therefore, important to have someone with oversight and understanding of the processes.
 - b) The Chair advised that there had been discussion with the Chief Executive on business and financial management and it was considered better to separate these areas in order to broaden the business remit.
 - c) Council Members were reminded that in the lead up to the annual appraisal meetings they should consider the competencies in their preparation for their meetings.
 - d) Members were also reminded of the competency requirements that the first sections were compulsory and required. The second section attributes were desired and not all were required by each individual member, but collectively across Council.

Subject to the suggestions above Council agreed the revisions to Council member competencies.

Item 11 – Review of Corporate Plan 2010-13

32. The Chair introduced the item and asked the Chief Executive for any additional comments.
33. The Chief Executive asked members to note the error on page 4, paragraph 4, in which the second sentence should read 'Aspects of the work on specialist practice are likely to emerge from cross-professional development agenda contained in the 2013-16 Corporate Plan'.
34. The Chief Executive pointed out that limits in the capacity of the GOsC's stakeholders and the necessity for buy-in some areas of work had meant that

some items had taken longer to complete than anticipated but the majority of the plan had been delivered and there was much to be proud of in what had been achieved.

35. The Chair underpinned the Chief Executive's statement on the progress and achievements made with the 2010-2013 plan and congratulated him and his team on their work.

Council noted the review of the Corporate Plan 2010-13.

Item 12 – Equality and Diversity Annual Report and Action Plan

36. The Chair introduced the item with the suggestion that a statement of financial activity be included in all future annual reports. The Chair also made the following comment received from Nick Hounsfield on the Annual Report and Action Plan:

"The Annual Report is noted but there is disappointment that the GOsC was not able to appoint from a more diverse pool for members of Council but the short list represented a good cross section in equality and diversity terms."

37. The Chair advised that though it was a challenge for all organisations to reflect diversity across the board the challenges were being met.
38. It was suggested that a small amendment be made to the Action Plan 2013-14 under Major Projects – Appointments, so that the description read 'Ensure recruitment campaigns for new executives and non-executives meet the required standards.'

a) Council noted the Equality and Diversity Annual Report

b) Council agreed the draft Equality and Diversity Action Plan for 2013-14 subject to amendments.

Item 13 – Rule 8 Professional Conduct Committee Procedure Rules

39. The Head of Regulation introduced the item and reminded members about the previous discussions. Members were asked to approve the renewed use of Rule 8 of the PCC Rules, which provides for the disposal of certain cases without a hearing. Members were advised that the consultation on Rule 8 had been broadened and overall there had been a positive response to the reinstatement of the Rule.

40. The Chair of the Fitness to Practice Policy Committee had no further comment to add but thanked the Head of Regulation and the regulation team for all the hard work on renewing the use of Rule 8.

Council approved the renewed use of Rule 8.

Item 14 – Continuing fitness to practise

41. The Chair introduced the item and expressed how especially pleased she was with the quality of Abi Masterton's CPD Discussion Document – Consultation Analysis Final Report. The Chair stated that the reports were important as they would impact the next period of work on revalidation and continuing fitness to practice. It was also the beginning of a process and an opportunity for Council members to become involved.
42. In discussion members made the following points.
 - a. There was concern that the reports demonstrated a number of areas that needed to be addressed and improved including self-assessment and reflection on practice. The issue of complexity was also raised suggesting that the process might be overly complex and showing participants' difficulties in dealing with uncertainty.
 - b. The Chair made the following comment received from Nick Hounsfield which supported the view on mandatory CPD:

“It appears the results show the customary non-evidence-based approach by the profession. This thinking will continue until the profession acknowledge the reality of modern health practice. Audits should be commonplace, peer review should be regularly performed, and core CPD should be mandatory. Until this sort of CPD activity is in place and compulsory, public and patients are at risk.”
 - c. Members reflected that the purpose of the Revalidation Pilot project was to test the process and was not a test of competency but, in conducting the project, it did highlight problems that needed to be addressed.
 - d. The Head of Professional Standards also explained there had been some discussion with KPMG reflecting on a number of areas and the returned portfolios were showing that there were a number of learning points for the GOsC and the profession.
 - e. The Chief Executive pointed out there were also benefits as a result of the reports and these should also be reflected on. The GOsC needed to work with

the regional groups and other stakeholders to ensure these processes are embedded in the profession.

- f. Members asked if it might be possible to share portfolios within the profession for learning purposes but it was pointed out there would be an issue of patient confidentiality if this was done.
- g. It was agreed that a staged approach to revalidation was a positive way forward and that capacity needed to be considered as part of this development.
- h. The Chair advised there would be further discussion on the revalidation evaluation reports at the meeting in June. Any thoughts and ideas for inclusion as part of the discussion should be submitted to the Chief Executive and/or the Head of Professional Standards.

Council noted the continuing fitness to practice update and the next steps.

Item 15 – Leeds Metropolitan University Recognised Qualification

- 43. The Chair introduced the item highlighting that it was the first time that a renewal of a Recognised Qualification (RQ) had been brought to a public meeting of Council in a drive for more openness and transparency.
- 44. It was confirmed there were no members with a conflict of interest in relation to this item.
- 45. The Professional Standards Manager introduced the report reminding members that Leeds Metropolitan University was seeking renewal of recognition for its Master of Osteopathy qualification. The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) conducted a review which began in mid August 2012 and ended in a visit to the university between 24 and 26 October 2012. Council were reminded that the renewal of the RQ had been considered at the meeting Education Committee, on 27 February, and it was recommended that Council approved the RQ.
- 46. The following points were made in discussion:
 - a. Members congratulated Leeds Metropolitan University on achieving a good report from the QAA. Members were also pleased at the move to include RQs in the public session of the Council's meeting.
 - b. Members sought clarification that the OEIs understood and were completely aware that RQ decisions would in future be made in public and the Chair asked that assurance be made to her that this was the case. Members were

advised that the OEIs were aware of the move to public discussion of RQs and that more formal advice would be communicated to them.

- c. It was also advised that commercial sensitivities should be taken into account when considering and discussing business relating to the educational institutions.

Council approved the recommendation to renew the qualification Master of Osteopathy awarded by the Leeds Metropolitan University from August 1 2013 until 31 July 2018 subject to the general conditions outlined in paragraph 7 and seek approval from the Privy Council.

Item 16 – Communications and Engagement Strategy 2013-16

- 47. The Head of Policy and Communications introduced the paper that proposed a new Communications and Engagement Strategy and work plan to support the effective delivery of the GOsC Corporate Strategy 2013-16 and invited members to comment on the strategy.
- 48. The Chair especially drew members attention to page 12, Monitoring and Evaluation, as this was important to assure Council that in going forward in communication with registrants and stakeholders the strategy was kept under regular review.
- 49. Members agreed this was a very good strategy and congratulated the Head of Policy and Communications and her team on their work.
- 50. The Chair summarised comments made by Nick Hounsfield:

“This is a good communication strategy and well done to the team for the paper. A key under-developed step is the dissemination of information from the regional network representatives to the rest of the profession. The outcomes of regional network meetings should be summarised and given to the network members in a form that can be helpfully dispersed.”
- 51. It was agreed that the strategy should include/mention working with partners. It was noted that the value of working with regional networks and other partners was fully understood and appreciated.
- 52. It was agreed that the activity given under Strategic Objective 2 – Achieve a high level of attendance at GOsC stakeholder events, with constructive engagement and positive feedback, should be given a higher priority than as currently shown in the list.

53. The Chair thanked the Head of Policy and Communications for all the work which had gone into the paper and strategy and looked forward to seeing the strategy implemented in the future.

Council agreed the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2013 -2016

Item 17 – European and International Annual Report

54. The Chair introduced the item advising members that the financial activity for the European and International Annual Report had been tabled for members' information. The Communications Manager was then invited to comment on the report which gave an update on current GOsC European and international activity.
55. The Communications Manager highlighted the following:
56. The justification and importance for the continuation of GOsC's European and international work was stressed. Operating in a growing global environment it was increasingly important for the GOsC to maintain and continue to have awareness of activities taking place outside of the UK, to ensure standards were maintained not only for UK registrants but also non-UK registrants, and protect UK patients. The importance of building and maintaining links and being able to influence development was also stressed through work with FORE, the OIA, and the development of CEN standards.
57. In discussion the following points were made:
- a. Members were advised that although a CEN Standard would not affect the Osteopaths Act 1993, the input of the UK members of the committee in their meetings with representatives would help to influence a model and provide a benchmark/quality standard which should lead to better protection and care for patients in countries without regulatory mechanisms.
 - b. Members were advised that the FORE framework, based on UK standards, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmarks, influences the CEN Standard. Members were advised that it was expected that the draft CEN Standard would go to public consultation later in 2013 which would give stakeholders an opportunity to contribute and raise any concerns.
 - c. The Chief Executive informed members that the UK delegation had made significant contributions to the document and being members of the drafting group had had some influence in the Technical Committee meetings which, it was envisaged, would shape what an osteopath would look like in Europe.

58. Members welcomed the report and the contributions made by all stakeholders involved in the CEN discussions.
59. The Chair thanked the Communications Manager for her comprehensive report and presentation.

Council noted the European and International Annual Report.

Item 18 – Registration update

60. The Acting Head of Registration introduced the report highlighting that it had been further expanded to inform Council of activities initiated within the Registration Department since September 2012.
61. In discussion the following points were made by Members:
 - a. Members suggested it would be useful to keep an eye on trends and forecasting for registration. The Chief Executive advised that there were forecasts but they were not included in the report as they had appeared in the last report in September 2012 but that future reports could have greater analysis of long-term trends.
 - b. Members raised a question about CRB checks and if confirmation of an individual's CRB status could be included on a registrant's ID card. Members were advised this was something for which a registrant's employer was responsible, not the GOsC, and also that CRB checks expire after six months.

Council noted the Registration update.

Committee minutes

Item 19 – Fitness to Practise Policy Committee

62. The Chair of the FtPP Committee thanked the Head of Regulation and her team for their support and work in assisting the Committee.
63. Minutes – Paragraph 17: Members were advised that where there was a late adjournment of a hearing the GOsC had no powers to recover costs.

The minutes of the Fitness to Practise Policy Committee on 16 January 2013, were noted.

Item 20 – Audit Committee

64. Minutes – Item 6: Risk Register and Residual Risk: It was suggested that the Risk Register and the subject of residual risk needed to be considered more widely and should include Council Members. The Chief Executive advised Members that this would be a subject for consideration at a future seminar.

The minutes of the Audit Committee on 23 January 2013, were noted.

Item 21 – Remuneration and Appointments Committee

65. Minutes – Appointments - Paragraph 15a: Members were concerned that vacancies for Legal/Medical Assessors would only appear on the GOsC website. How could it be assured the vacancies were reaching the widest pool of possible candidates? It was advised that many posts were advertised this way and interested parties would locate through a number of search mechanisms and social media.

The minutes of the Remuneration and Appointments Committee on 31 January 2013 were noted.

Item 22 – Education Committee

66. The retiring Council Member and Chair of the Education Committee, Professor Ian Hughes, thanked the Head of Professional Standards and her team for their support and assistance during his tenure.

The minutes of the Education Committee on 27 February 2013 were noted.

Any other business

67. There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20 June 2013 at 10.00.