



**Council**  
**29 January 2020**  
**Acting Chief Executive and Registrar's Report**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For noting
<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>	This paper reports on the online equality and diversity training which was rolled out to staff and all members of the governance structure in late 2019.
<b>Communications implications</b>	None
<b>Annexes</b>	A: 2019-20 Business Plan monitoring as at 31 December 2019  B: Financial report to 31 December 2019
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## **Introduction**

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

## **Professional Standards Authority (PSA)**

2. The 2019-20 Performance Review assessment (January 2019 – December 2019) against the updated standards and evidence framework commenced in December 2019. We made a self-assessment submission, against the updated standards, by the deadline of 27 January 2020. Council will have the opportunity to engage further with the PSA standards as part of its seminar discussion after the conclusion of the private meeting of Council.
3. We should learn the outcome of the performance review assessment by the end of February 2020 or thereabouts.

## **Brexit and Regulatory reform**

4. The December 2019 General Election was won by the Conservatives with a clear majority of 80.
5. In terms of Brexit, the Government majority will now see its Withdrawal Bill pass confirming the UK's exit from the EU by 31 January 2020, however, there is no immediate impact on the GOsC including how we process registration applications from internationally qualified applicants. We will continue to remain in communication with the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as well as colleagues from the other healthcare regulators over the coming months.
6. Discussions continue between the regulators and the Department of Health and Social Care about the potential for s60 orders to streamline fitness to practise processes, governance arrangements and registration processes across the regulators. However, it remains unclear over what timescale the proposals are to move forward.

## **Council of Deans 2020**

7. We reported to Council in November 2019 that we had been approached by the Council of Deans, a membership association for Pro-Vice Chancellors, Deans and Heads of School in health disciplines across UK universities to attend their annual conference in January 2020.
8. The annual conference was held on 21 January 2020 and a verbal update will be provided at the Council meeting.

## Quality Assurance Procurement

9. Council will be aware that we are currently undertaking a procurement exercise for our quality assurance activity and we published a notice in the Supplement to the Official Journal to the EU (OJEU) on 30 October 2019.
10. The tender exercise remains in progress and a fuller report will be made to the Policy Advisory Committee and Council later in 2020 when the process has concluded.

## Office for Students

11. We have scheduled a meeting Office for Students (OfS) for late January 2020 to discuss how the different statutory responsibilities of the OfS and the GOsC can better interact efficiently and effectively from the perspective of our educational providers. Council will recall that some of our providers are being required to undertake additional 'visits', on the face of it, very similar to GOsC RQ visits from the OfS because the GOsC RQ visit is not currently regarded by OfS as equivalent to a higher education review undertaken by the QAA and we wish to engage in a positive dialogue with OfS to find better ways of working together.

## Care Quality Commission (CQC)

### *Emerging Concerns Protocol*

12. In 2016, a forum consisting of professional regulators, system regulators and other partners, was convened to discuss how working together as a safety system could support the delivery of high-quality care.
13. A protocol for sharing information about emerging concerns was developed and was signed by:
  - Care Quality Commission (CQC)
  - General Medical Council
  - Nursing and Midwifery Council
  - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
  - Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
  - General Dental Council
  - General Pharmaceutical Council
  - Health and Care Professions Council
  - Health Education England
14. At that time, GOsC was not involved in the discussions about the development of the Emerging Concerns Protocol<sup>1</sup>.
15. CQC presented at the 2019 PSA Symposium, and contact was made with their representative following that presentation in order to discuss our involvement

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20181112\\_emerging-concerns-protocol.pdf](https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20181112_emerging-concerns-protocol.pdf).

with the Emerging Concerns Protocol. A meeting was held between the GOsC Executive and CQC in early January 2020.

16. There is an appetite for GOsC to be a signatory on an updated version of the Emerging Concerns Protocol and to join the healthcare regulatory forum which has overall ownership of the protocol. In addition, we would have a seat on the working group which proposes changes to the protocol document.
17. With osteopaths now as Allied Health Professionals, we see this a positive step forward for the profession being recognised alongside other healthcare disciplines and we believe that the working group and forum would benefit from hearing from a smaller regulator in order to broaden out the development of the protocol. We will continue to liaise with the CQC with a view to be a signatory on the protocol by summer 2020.

#### *Frenotomy services (tongue tie release)*

18. Separately, we have been approached by the CQC to discuss frenotomy services. The view of the CQC is that such services are surgical by definition and as such if a healthcare practitioner is providing these services, they would need to be registered with CQC.
19. We have arranged a meeting with the relevant CQC representatives to ascertain more information and we will report to Council in due course, and if necessary, take steps to inform the profession of this requirement including liaison with the Institute of Osteopathy.

#### **University College of Osteopathy (UCO) faculty day**

20. On 7 December 2019 we attended the UCO faculty day and Rachel Heatley, Senior Communications Officer, presented to two groups on the new CPD scheme. The day was well attended by faculty staff and international delegates and feedback from the two sessions facilitated by Rachel was very positive. We look forward to being able to attend future events.

#### **Online training**

21. Online training on equality and diversity and on wellbeing was rolled out to staff and all members of the governance structure following the November 2019 Council meeting. Feedback suggests the training has been well received and we will look for further opportunities to provide similar training for our staff and members of the governance structure.

#### **Progress against the 2019-20 Business Plan**

22. Annex A provides a progress report on the 2019-20 Business Plan at 31 December 2019. At this stage in the year we are reporting that all Business Plan items are on track.

**Financial report**

23. Annex B provides an update on the financial position at the end of December 2019.

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