



**Council**  
**18 July 2017**  
**PSA Performance Review 2016-17**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For noting
<b>Issue</b>	The paper notes the findings of the Professional Standards Authority 2016-17 Performance Review.
<b>Recommendation</b>	To note the content of the report.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	None at present.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None identified at present.
<b>Communications implications</b>	None identified at present.
<b>Annexes</b>	A. Annual review of performance 2016-17 B. Extract from PSA Annual Report
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## Background

1. The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) publishes an annual Performance Review of each of the healthcare professional regulators.
2. The 2016-17 Performance Review is the second to have been produced using the new approach where individual reviews are conducted throughout the year and the reports on each regulator published separately.
3. The GOsC's Performance Review report for 2016-17 can be found at Annex A.

## Discussion

### *Assessment of the GOsC's Performance*

4. The PSA raised two issues with us at the start of this year's Performance Review process. The first of these related to registration application processing times for EU and other international applicants; the second was in relation to the length of time taken to place concerns before an interim suspension order hearing. At this stage through the provision of additional data and commentary we were able to allay the PSA's concerns.
5. At the next stage of the process the PSA decided to undertake a targeted review of the number of fitness to practise cases that were more than 52 weeks old. This concern was similar to that raised by Council at recent meetings. Again, following this targeted review, we were able to satisfy the PSA that the issue was being managed and that the trend was now being reversed.
6. The PSA therefore concluded that the GOsC has continued to meet all of the PSA Standards of Good Regulation. Details of how each standard was met are set out in the Performance Review report.
7. In its assessment of the GOsC the PSA highlighted in positive terms a number of areas of our work, including:
  - a. Our approach to the review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*
  - b. The publication of new student fitness to practise guidance
  - c. Further progress towards the implementation of our new CPD scheme
  - d. Our new *Guidance on Drafting Determinations*
  - e. Development of new *Complaints and Hearings Guidance for Registrants*.
8. In its report the PSA identified a number of issues that it intends to keep under review in future Performance Reviews. These are
  - a. The progress of the review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*

- b. The impact of the introduction of the *Threshold Criteria for Unacceptable Professional Conduct* on the number of cases referred to the Investigating Committee and Professional Conduct Committee
- c. Ongoing performance with regard to the timeliness of fitness to practise processes.

#### *Future Performance Reviews*

- 9. As reported in Item 5, the PSA is consulting on revision of its *Standards of Good Regulation*. This work will continue through 2017 and it is anticipated that the new Standards will be adopted in 2018 in time for their implementation the following year. Therefore the 2017-18 Performance Review will be conducted on the same basis as in the year reported in this paper.

#### *Best practice from other regulators*

- 10. Under the old Performance review approach we reported to Council each year how we intended to build into our work any best practice identified by the PSA in the Performance Review of other regulators.
- 11. Last year, because of the new format and the fact that our own Performance Review was the first to be published, we said that we would review all the Performance Review reports across the regulators to identify best practice.
- 12. Unfortunately in the new format the PSA is no longer identifying items that it considers to be best practice from across the regulators, either in the individual reports on the regulators or in its Annual Report to Parliament on the work of the regulators.
- 13. However, the Executive continues to monitor the issues raised in the Performance Reviews of the other regulators and to use these to inform the work of the GOsC.

#### *PSA Annual Report*

- 14. The PSA published its Annual report on 30 June, see <http://bit.ly/2sVClqo>. In this report the PSA commended our work undertaken jointly with the Advertising Standards Authority and also made positive reference to 'relational registration' and our commissioned research conducted by Professor Gerry McGivern et al<sup>1</sup>.
- 15. The Report also contained a table of comparisons of the key data collected from across the regulators in the past year. This table can be found at Annex B.

**Recommendation:** to note the content of the report.

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<sup>1</sup> Professor Gerry McGivern, Dr Michael Fischer, Dr Tomas Palaima, Zoey Spendlove, Dr Oliver Thomson, and Professor Justin Waring, 2015. Exploring and explaining the dynamics of osteopathic regulation, professionalism and compliance with standards in practice, <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/research-surveys/gosc-research/research-to-promote-effective-regulation/>