



Council
9 July 2020
Annual Report and Accounts

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	Approve the publication of the Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year 2019-20.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To note the Audit Findings Report2. To note the Letter of Representation to be e-signed by the Chair of Council.3. To approve the Annual Report and Accounts for e-signing by the Chair of Council.4. To note the annual reporting requirements associated with the Charity Commission.
Financial and resourcing implications	The Annual Report and Accounts have been typeset for publication on the website, but not produced as a printed document.
Equality and diversity implications	The Annual Report and Accounts refers to our equality and diversity work carried out in 2019-20.
Communications implications	The Annual Report and Accounts are a public document and will be published on the GOsC website.
Annexes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20B. Audit Findings ReportC. Letter of representation
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Background

1. The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) publishes its accounts as soon as reasonably practicable after they have been audited and provides copies to the Privy Council to be laid before Parliament.
2. The 2019-20 accounts are the third set of accounts produced since the GOsC became a registered charity. The accounts will also be submitted to the Charity Commission alongside a charity Annual Return.
3. The financial audit was conducted for the fourth time by Crowe in May 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the audit was carried out remotely. Following the conclusion of the audit, Crowe produced an Audit Findings Report (AFR) which highlighted the key issues affecting the results of the GOsC and the preparation of the financial statements.
4. The AFR was presented to the Audit Committee by Tim Redwood, Partner, on 25 June 2020 and is attached at Annex A for Council members only. At the request of Crowe, the AFR will not be made publicly available online, and this is in line with normal auditing practice.
5. The audited accounts are accompanied by an Annual Report setting out the activities of the GOsC over the previous twelve months. The Annual Report and Accounts are set out at Annex B and the letter of representation at Annex C.
6. The papers are sent out approximately two weeks before the Council meeting. If a member of Council identifies a significant problem with the Annual Report and Accounts, this should be drawn to the attention of the Chief Executive and Registrar in advance of the meeting. This is to ensure that the Annual Report and Accounts can be signed electronically at the July Council meeting by the Chair of Council.

Discussion

7. A summary of the issues outlined in the ARF, and considered by the Audit Committee, are set out below:

Potential for significant risk	Conclusion
Recognition of registration fees	No significant issues were identified.
Completeness of liabilities in respect of Professional Conduct Committee cases	No significant issues were identified.
Management override of controls	No significant issues were identified.
Payroll	No significant issues were identified.
Board and Committee allowances	No significant issues were identified.
Investments	No significant issues were identified.

8. There were no control points identified during the course of the audit.
9. It was reported by the Audit Partner that the audit had again gone very smoothly and thanked both Crowe audit staff and GOsC staff who were involved in making sure the audit was conducted remotely and provided the usual level of scrutiny. This should provide reassurance to Council members that the internal financial controls are robust, given the Crowe audit team were able to complete their financial audit remotely and did not identify any control points.
10. Audit Committee were content to recommend to Council that the Annual Report and Accounts be signed electronically by the Chair of Council at the July 2020 meeting.

Financial position summary

11. At the end of the financial year 2019-20, the GOsC had a deficit of £111,045.
12. This was caused by an investment loss arising from stock market volatility which happened in late March 2020. Had the stock market not been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the GOsC would have recorded a surplus of circa £30k which was in line with budget forecasts reported to Council during the financial year.

Annual Reporting requirements

13. Once the Chair of Council has signed the Annual Report and Accounts electronically, the following steps will be followed:
 - a. Annual Report and Accounts emailed to Crowe for e-signing by the Audit Partner on the afternoon of 9 July 2020.
 - b. Designed and typeset Annual Report and Accounts presented to Privy Council for pre-laying approval.
 - c. Privy Council sign-off Annual Report and Accounts and confirm number of copies required for laying in front of both Houses of Parliament; the number of copies required for the Welsh Assembly and the number of copies required for the Votes Office of the House of Lords.
 - d. Annual Report and Accounts laid before both Houses of Parliament by 30 September 2020.
 - e. Annual Report and Accounts published on GOsC website after document laid before both Houses of Parliament.
 - f. Annual Report and Accounts filed with the Charity Commission along with an Annual Return that covers such things as:
 - i. Income (including from overseas sources)

- ii. Senior salaries
- iii. Payments to trustees
- iv. Risk management
- v. Safeguarding
- vi. Serious incidents.

Recommendations:

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