



**Council
18 July 2017
Chief Executive and Registrar's Report**

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	A review of activities and performance since the last Council meeting not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To note the proposed approach for the renewal of the education quality assurance contract.2. To note the remainder of the report.
Financial and resourcing implications	None
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	None
Annexes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">A. 2017-18 Business Plan – Q1 progress reportB. Financial report at end of Q1C. Business Plan risk assessment
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Introduction

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

Department of Health legislation update

2. There has been no formal update from the Department of Health since the General Election on the possibility of legislation to reform healthcare professional regulation. Although the Conservative Party election manifesto included a pledge to 'legislate to reform and rationalise the current outdated system of professional regulation of healthcare professions', no proposal for a Bill was included in the Queen's Speech.
3. Given the hung Parliament the prospect of wide ranging Section 60 orders may also be in doubt and it remains unclear whether the proposed consultation on reforms will go ahead, particularly as the minister championing this from outside the department also lost his seat at the election.
4. If the prospect of changes to primary legislation by way of Section 60 Orders continues to recede we will continue to push for consent to make changes to our rules to facilitate improvements in our processes.

Professional Standards Authority update

5. The PSA published our Performance Review on 16 June and its Annual report on 30 June. Further details can be found at Item 12 on the agenda.
6. The PSA has also published a consultation document for the review of its Standards of Good Regulation. The consultation, which runs until 12 September, can be found at <http://bit.ly/2soQmOw>. As well as reviewing the scope of the existing standards the consultation asks whether more attention needs to be focused on continuing fitness to practise, the relevance of standards around illegal or unregistered practice, and whether to include new standards in relation to governance. The PSA also explores a number of areas in which new standards in relation to core activities might be introduced, and whether to remove some duplication of standards. The PSA also explores an option around moving to a principles-based approach using the PSA's 'right-touch' principles with the addition of new principles around 'fairness' and 'efficiency' and alternative approaches to reporting
7. The Head of Regulation and the Head of Professional Standards are meeting with the Professional Standards Authority on 7 September 2017 to discuss our response to the consultation before formal submission.

8. We have also been informed that the PSA is planning the publication of new policy documents over the summer on registration, fitness to practise and education and training.

Brexit/recognition of professional qualifications

9. The Government has made a preliminary announcement in relation to the rights of EU citizens in the UK after 'Brexit'. This announcement also covered the issue of the recognition of professional qualifications which is the main area of the negotiations that may have an impact on the GOsC. The announcement said:

'The Government recognises that many EU nationals in the UK rely on the recognition of their qualification to practise their profession and that many EU nationals have qualified in the UK and now practise in another EU Member State and therefore want to continue to recognise these existing qualifications to provide stability for EU nationals in the UK and vice versa. It is important that the ability of these professions to continue to practise is preserved. The negotiations will also seek to secure reciprocal rights for UK qualified professionals to practise their professions in EU member states without prejudice to migration policy.'

It went on to say:

'The recognition of professional qualifications of those who begin studying for a relevant qualification once the UK has left the EU will be subject to future negotiations.'

10. It must be noted that this is only a preliminary position that was announced at the start of the Brexit negotiations. We will continue to keep Council informed as these progress.

Education quality assurance contract

11. The GOsC holds a major contract with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to support the quality assurance of GOsC recognised qualifications. The current contract was awarded in July 2015 for a period of three years renewable for a further two years.
12. The tender process is required to be undertaken on a Europe-wide basis using the 'OJEU' advertising process at least every five years. This is a lengthy process which would need to commence in the autumn if it was decided to retender the contract. A contract award of this size would normally be a decision of Council.
13. As a preliminary stage we have ascertained that the QAA would like to continue with the contract for a further two years. We consider that the contract has been working well, deliverables have been on time and to appropriate quality. We now propose to ask the PAC to consider whether the contract should be extended and if any variations to the contract are required. Their recommendation would

then inform a decision at the November 2017 Council on whether to extend the contract or start a fresh procurement process.

Other meetings

14. Recent meetings, calls, visits and speaking engagements by the Chief Executive and others include:

- Charles Bruford, Chair, COEI
- PAC induction
- OPS Working Group
- ODG Mentoring Pilot Workshop
- ODG Leadership Programme Workshop
- Cheshire CPD group
- Chief Executives' Steering Group
- Academy of Physical Medicine advertising broadcast
- EFO/FORE merger working group
- Judith Ellis, Chief Executive, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
- ODG Advanced Clinical Practice Working Group
- Marjon – programme lead, head of quality and Vice-Chancellor
- OIA Governance Committee
- GOsC/OEI liaison meeting
- Matthew Rogers, Institute of Osteopathy
- Inter-professional CPD Forum
- Shane Carmichael, GMC and Michael Guthrie, HCPC
- Rosalyn Hayles, Chief Executive, GCC
- David Gale, Quality Assurance Agency
- Guy Rubin and Janet Collins, GDC and Rebecca Addison and Kate Waller, Community Research
- CPD Partnership Group
- Inter-regulatory Education Group
- Inter-regulatory Continuing Fitness to Practise Group
- Molinari Institute of Health graduation ceremony
- Charles Hunt, Principal, BSO
- Forum on Osteopathic Regulation in Europe, Paris
- GOsC/GDC Values Workshop

Progress against the 2017-18 Business Plan

15. Annex A provides a final progress report on the 2017-18 Business Plan at the end of Q1

16. At this stage of the year we have not identified any items that are significantly delayed or which will not proceed.

Financial report

17. The financial position at the end of Q1 2017-18 can be found at Annex B.

Business Plan Risk Assessment

18. The 2017-18 Business Plan Risk Assessment is presented for Council to note. This document prepared annually as part of the business planning process and the 2017-18 was reviewed by the Audit Committee at its March meeting.
19. This was not presented to Council at the May meeting because it needs to be read alongside the 2017-18 Business Plan or the associated monitoring document.

Recommendations:

1. To note the proposed approach for the renewal of the education quality assurance contract.
2. To note the remainder of the report.