



Council
5 May 2016
Chief Executive and Registrar's Report

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	A review of activities and performance since the last Council meeting not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
Recommendation	To note the content of the report.
Financial and resourcing implications	None
Equality and diversity implications	None
Communications implications	None
Annexes	Progress against the 2015-16 Business Plan
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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.

PSA Performance Review

2. The Professional Standards Authority completed its consideration of our performance in 2015-16 and concluded that it had sufficient evidence to conclude that we continue to meet all of the Standards of Good Regulation and that no further review is required at this time.
3. Once again this is an extremely positive achievement for the GOsC and this is the sixth year in a row that we have been judged to meet all of the Standards.
4. The PSA has asked us to provide them with further information in regard to the small lengthening of some timeframes for dealing with fitness to practise cases, so that they can be assured that we continue to meet the standards in this area.
5. The next stage is for the PSA to write a Performance Review report on our work, which we expect to receive and comment on shortly.

Department of Health legislation update

6. A range of discussions continue to take place among regulators and with the Department of Health (England) about options for future regulatory reform.
7. Along with the Chair, I met Nick Clarke, the lead official in this area, on 22 March 2016 to discuss our views on a range of issues, including the options for reforms which meet ministerial objectives around public protection, autonomy, cost effectiveness and a possible reduction in the number of regulators.
8. We expect the Government to publish some form of draft proposals later this year but as yet the timetable and likely content remains unclear.

OPS review

9. We have commenced the review agreed by Council at its meeting in February 2016 of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. The first stage of the review is the gathering of evidence and feedback on the existing standards.
10. A bespoke website has been launched at <http://standards.osteopathy.org.uk/> which allows registrants and others to provide direct feedback on each standard. At 21 April we had received 150 comments following 4,648 separate page views on the site from 645 different users.

11. The questions being asked at this stage of the review are:
 - a. Which standards could be presented and explained more clearly?
 - b. Which standards might hinder rather than support good osteopathic practice?
 - c. Whether there are any areas not covered that would benefit osteopaths, patients and the public?
 - d. Where there might be a need to clarify the guidance that supports the standards?
12. We also took the opportunity of the recent Regional Communication Network meeting (18 March) to review these same questions with regional group representatives and encourage similar discussions in regional meetings.

Institute of Osteopathy bilateral meeting

13. Along with the Chair, we held a formal bilateral meeting on 8 April 2016 with the President and Chief Executive of Institute of Osteopathy (iO).
14. Although we work closely with the iO across a wide range of areas, it is helpful for us to meet formally to discuss areas of mutual concern.
15. Among the key issues we discussed were:
 - a. The implementation of the new GOsC CPD scheme and supporting and encouraging early adoption.
 - b. Advertising compliance with the profession and work that is taking place with the ASA.
 - c. Support for registrants who are interested in non-executive roles with the GOsC and elsewhere.

NICE guidelines

16. The revised NICE draft guidelines on low back pain and sciatica were published for consultation on 24 March, after a long period of review. The draft guidelines continue to support the use of a combination of manual therapy and exercise for low back pain.
17. While the GOsC is a formal stakeholder in the consultation (which closes on 5 May 2016), the response on behalf of the profession is being led by the National Council for Osteopathic Research and the Institute of Osteopathy.

PSA Research Conference

18. We presented to the recent Professional Standards Authority's research conference ideas for taking forward our work in relation to standards and values. The presentation was well received and we are now in discussion with the PSA and other regulators about the potential for developing and testing decision-making tools that support practitioners.

Other meetings

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

- European School of Osteopathy
- PSA annual symposium
- Osteopathic Development Group
- Department of Health meeting with chief executives on future legislation
- QAA education visitor training
- Northern Counties Society of Osteopaths
- Scottish Government policy leads
- Regional Communications Network
- NCOR trustees and council
- Nick Clarke, Department of Health
- DEFRA animal practitioners meeting
- Marion Clark, Chair, Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council
- Dave Smith, DH/GOsC account manager
- Inter-regulatory Group on Governance.

In addition, staff have met with graduating cohorts at all of the osteopathic educational institutions to explain the requirements of registration and introduce them to the work of the GOsC.

Progress against the 2015-16 Business Plan

20. Annex A provides a final progress report on the 2015-16 Business Plan at the year end.
21. Those activities that were not completed and are carrying over to 2016-17 are highlighted in the report.

Financial report

22. The Head of Registration and Resources will give an oral update on the provisional outturn for the 2015-16 financial year ending 31 March 2016.

Recommendation: to note the report.