



**Council**  
**2 May 2017**  
**Chief Executive and Registrar's Report**

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| <b>Classification</b>                        | Public  |
| <b>Purpose</b>                               | For decision  |
| <b>Issue</b>                                 | A review of activities and performance since the last Council meeting not reported elsewhere on the agenda. |
| <b>Recommendation</b>                        | To note the content of the report.  |
| <b>Financial and resourcing implications</b> | None  |
| <b>Equality and diversity implications</b>   | None  |
| <b>Communications implications</b>           | None  |
| <b>Annex</b>                                 | 2016-17 Business Plan – Final Progress report   |
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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. We understand that the Department of Health (England) is still committed to publishing its long awaited consultation on the reform of healthcare professional regulation. Publication had been delayed, in part, due to the current political impasse in Northern Ireland. However, the General Election called for 8 June will delay the timetable even further. The themes of the consultation are expected to remain unchanged from those previously discussed by Council.
3. We also understand that the Department is considering alternative approaches to implementation of its proposals including through a number of themed Section 60 Orders. These Orders are secondary legislation that enable primary legislation to be changed without the need for the Parliamentary time required for a full Bill. The first of these orders would probably relate to fitness to practise. To inform this process, we recently met Department officials along with the General Chiropractic Council as the current Osteopaths and Chiropractors Acts are very similar in structure.

## **Professional Standards Authority Performance Review**

4. As part of our 2016-17 performance review, the PSA undertook a targeted review of cases that have been open more than 12 months (Council will recall that the number of open cases was discussed at its February meeting). Following that targeted review, the PSA confirmed that the GOsC has met all the standards of good regulation in 2016-17. We anticipate the final Performance Review will be published shortly and will be tabled for discussion at the July Council meeting.

## **Osteopathy and allied health professions**

5. The Chief Allied Health Professions Officer for NHS England, Suzanne Rastrick, announced recently that osteopaths (along with operating department practitioners) would join the existing 12 health professions currently within her remit at NHS England.
6. The aim of this new representation is to support wider professional engagement and shared working initiatives for NHS England and the profession including sharing national working goals and approaches around improving patient care and delivery and wider areas around prevention, self-care, self-management and medicines mechanisms.

7. The new arrangements follow a series of discussions between the Institute of Osteopathy and the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer.

### **Charitable status**

8. We are still awaiting a final response from the Charity Commission to our application for registration as a Charity. We have requested an update from Commission officials.
9. The Charity Commission is also undertaking a consultation in relation to *The use and promotion of complementary and alternative medicine: making decisions about charitable status*. However, it has not been indicated to us that this is the cause of the delay in our application.

### **Recruitment**

10. In March we concluded the last of our appointments taking effect from 1 April 2017 with the appointment of four external members of the Policy Advisory Committee.
11. The 2016-17 recruitment processes led to the appointment of 16 new non-executives and was the largest such exercise since 2008-09. I would like to thank all the Council and committee members, external advisers and the staff team for the considerable effort that went into making the whole process proceed so smoothly.
12. I would also like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to all departing non-executives, most of whom had served for the maximum period of eight years. The GOsC's success as an organisation depends on the high-quality of non-executive input we receive, and the considerable amount of time and effort they expend on our behalf.

### **PSA research conference**

13. Three pieces of work involving the GOsC were presented at the PSA's annual research conference. The first of these was a keynote presentation by Professor Gerry McGivern on 'Pastoral power and the regulation of osteopaths' which took forward thinking emerging from the research commissioned by the GOsC on 'Exploring and explaining the dynamics of osteopathic regulation, professionalism and compliance with standards in practice.' In addition Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards gave a presentation on 'Continuing professional development: engagement, support and community', and Guy Rubin of the General Dental Council and Professor Stephen Tyreman of the BSO gave a presentation on joint GDC/GOsC work on 'How are standards interpreted by health professionals when interacting with patients?'

## **International activities**

14. At the June 2017 meeting of the Forum on Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE), which will take place in Paris, the secretariat function will formally be transferred to Syndicat Français des Ostéopathes. We will continue to work with our European colleagues as a member of FORE.
15. In February I gave the opening keynote speech at the inaugural Emirates Osteopathic Conference in Dubai. This was an important event for osteopaths working in the region and was attended from delegates from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as from Australasia and Europe. I also had the opportunity to brief local GOsC registrants on the new CPD scheme and other activities.
16. Later this year the Osteopathic International Alliance will hold its annual conference in Auckland, New Zealand. I am planning to use this opportunity to hold face-to-face meetings with Australian and New Zealand regulators and have also been invited to give presentations to staff at the Australian Healthcare professional Regulatory Authority and to staff and students at Victoria University Melbourne.

## **'Striking the balance' report from the Committee on standards in Public Life**

17. In September 2016 the Committee on Standards in Public Life published a report reviewing how regulatory bodies in the UK uphold the Committee's Seven Principles of Public Life. The Executive undertook a review of the recommendations in the report and provided a report to the March 2017 meeting of the Audit Committee.
18. We have identified a number of areas where we believe further work is necessary to improve the GOsC's practice. These are:
  - a. Encouraging Council to reflect on ethical standards as part of its periodic self-evaluation.
  - b. Implementing periodic training in relation to standards and ethics for all non-executives.
  - c. Reviewing the GOsC Code of Conduct against the requirements of the Civil Service Code.
  - d. Reviewing staff inductions and the Staff Handbook to ensure adequate coverage of the Code of Conduct and related matters.
  - e. Considering how to address the risks of 'regulatory capture', i.e. developing over close relations with those we regulate, through staff training.

This work will be taken forward and reported to Council as appropriate.

## Other meetings

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

- Swansea University – Year 1 students
- London School of Osteopathy – Year 2 students
- Professor Bill Fulford, Professor Stephen Tyreman, Guy Rubin (GDC), Kate Waller and Rebecca Addis (Community Research) re values project
- Daisy Blench, Policy Advisor, PSA, re education quality assurance
- Carlisle Osteopaths peer discussion review development group
- PSA Annual symposium
- Education Visitor and Registration Assessor development day
- COEI/GOsC/iO development meeting
- Whitehall and Industry Group Leadership Awards
- Emirates Osteopathic Conference
- Rosalyn Hayles, Chief Executive, GCC
- Jonathan Shapiro, Chair, Osteopathic Foundation
- BSO Centenary Reception
- PSA Research Conference
- Northern Counties Society of Osteopaths
- Chief Executives Steering Group, Cardiff
- Advanced Clinical Practice working group
- PCC and HC Chairs meetings (with Council Chair)
- Peterborough CPD group
- NCOR Trustees and Council
- Open University (re ODG leadership programme)
- Department of Health (England)
- Dr David Gale, Quality Assurance Agency
- European School of Osteopathy (year 3 students)
- Carol Fawkes, National Council of Osteopathic Research re development of clinical audit and patient reported outcome measures webinars (PROMs)
- Matthew Hills and Ross Scales (GDC) re education quality assurance
- Registration Assessor training
- Research inter-regulatory group meeting
- Suffolk Osteopaths
- Wessex Osteopaths
- Reigate Osteopaths
- Charles Bruford, Chair of COEI.
- Penny Bance, (GCC)
- CPD webinars including: case based discussion (x6), patient feedback (x2), clinical audit (x4), PROMs (x2), consent and communication (x3)

## Progress against the 2016-17 Business Plan

20. Annex A provides a final progress report on the 2016-17 Business Plan at the year end.

21. We are reporting delay on three items which have been carried over into 2017-18:

1.3 – PCC Bank of Conditions.

3.1 – Stakeholder survey.

3.2 – IT user feedback.

3.2 – Use of Integra database for case management.

**Financial report**

22. The Head of Registration and Resources will give an oral update on the provisional outturn for the 2016-17 financial year ending 31 March 2017.

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