



**Council**  
**11 May 2020**  
**Acting Chief Executive and Registrar's Report**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For noting
<b>Issue</b>	A review of activities and performance since the last Council meeting not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
<b>Recommendations</b>	To note the content of the report.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	The May Council meeting receives a verbal update on the outturn for the financial year end as the external audit would not have been completed by the time of the meeting. There is, therefore, no financial report annexed to this paper.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	The paper sets out what we have done since the previous Council meeting including raising awareness of mental health and celebrating LGBT+ history month.
<b>Communications implications</b>	None
<b>Annexes</b>	None
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## **Introduction**

1. This report gives an account of activities of note that have been undertaken by the Acting Chief Executive and Registrar and colleagues since the last Council meeting, which are not reported elsewhere on the agenda.
2. The dominant issue of late has been the evolving situation and impact of COVID-19. This report covers our work through to, and including, w/c 16 March 2020, when in line with Government advice about social distancing and restricting unnecessary travel, we implemented homeworking for all of our staff.
3. Our response to the COVID-19 situation - from 17 March 2020 - is dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

## **Professional Standards Authority (PSA)**

4. For the Performance Review assessment period of January 2019 - December 2019, we submitted our self-assessment against the updated standards, by the deadline of 27 January 2020. We are aware that the PSA scrutiny panel have met and reached a determination on our performance, but we are still awaiting the published PSA report which has been delayed by the impact of COVID-19.
5. In February 2020 I attend a half-day PSA seminar: Regulatory Developments in the Welsh Context. The seminar was attended by most regulators and representatives from the Welsh Government and Health Education and Improvement Wales who made presentations with roundtable discussions following. The was agreement that the seminar was of value and should be held again in 2021.
6. Steven Bettles, Policy Manager and Professor Gerry McGivern, Warwick Business School presented at the Professional Standards Authority Academic and Research conference on 5 March 2020 about 'Does relational regulation of osteopaths continue to enhance compliance?' The session presented the emerging findings of the follow up survey which concluded in early March 2020. This research helps us to continue to explore the barriers and enablers to the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards. The report will be considered by Council in due course.

## **Office for Students**

7. We reported to Council in January 2020 that the scheduled meeting between Office for Students (OfS) and the GOsC had been postponed at the request of the OfS. The meeting was rescheduled being held virtually in April 2020.
8. The conversation was constructive and while we discovered that our main contact, who we were meeting with, is due to leave the OfS at the end of July 2020, we agreed a set of actions to ensure that our organisations continue to

have dialogue in the future, particularly around our sector and our institutions but also importantly, the wider healthcare regulation sector.

9. We also attended an education joint regulatory meeting in March 2020 at which another seminar was facilitated to explore opportunities for joint working in the quality assurance of health professional education. There was some appetite for exploring a protocol similar in nature to the Emerging concerns protocol between the Care Quality Commission and the health professional regulators. It was felt that a more collaborative approach would be beneficial for all stakeholders. This work is continuing lead by the Head of Education at the General Optical Council with support from the General Osteopathic Council.

### **Quality Assurance procurement**

10. Since the last Council meeting, we have held a tender exercise for our quality assurance activity which was held in line with the EU procurement rules. The panel, who had delegated authority over the decision making, have reached a decision and we are currently in a 'standstill period' which concluded on 18 April 2020 is required as per the procurement rules.
11. Contracts are currently being finalised. As soon as we are able to make the decision known to Council we will do so.

### **NCOR complaints and concerns workshop**

12. In March 2020, we held a workshop which discussed the findings of the NCOR complaints and concerns report. The workshop saw a wide range of attendees including representatives from the Institute of Osteopathy, insurers and patients.

### **Equality and Diversity**

13. In February 2020 we celebrated LGBT+ history month by adding a message to our email banner as well as promoting awareness through our social media platforms. We also held a 'time to talk' lunch where staff gathered and were able to talk about mental health awareness in a safe space.
14. Audit Committee, which met 'virtually', considered a proposal for an equality, diversity and inclusion audit which had an outcome to enhance our equality and diversity action plan, something that Council had identified as a priority last year. Audit Committee approved the proposal; however, the work has been deferred to a future point because of the COVID-19 impact.

### **Removal of Recognised Qualification expiry dates – University College of Osteopathy and British College of Osteopathic Medicine**

15. Since the January 2020 Council meeting, we have received confirmation from Privy Council that the expiry dates have been removed from the Recognised

Qualifications of both the University College of Osteopathy and the British College of Osteopathic Medicine.

16. This is an important development as this new structure will lengthen the window within which quality assurance visits take place so that they can be more closely aligned with other regulatory activity contributing to a more proportionate process. There is no impact on scrutiny. The Policy and Education Committee will still continue to scrutinise standards and the option of removal of the RQ, should this ever be required remains for Council, subject to the approval of the Privy Council.

### **Regulatory reform and Brexit**

17. Discussions continue between the regulators and the Department of Health and Social Care about the potential for s60 orders to streamline fitness to practise processes, governance arrangements and registration processes across the regulators. However, it remains unclear over what timescale the proposals are to move forward in the current climate of uncertainty.
18. Regulators continue to discuss implications arising from Brexit through forums such as the inter-regulatory registration forum (Chaired by GOsC) and the Alliance for UK Regulators in Europe (AURE). In March 2020, I chaired a joint meeting between these two groups held at the GMC. The groups agreed to continue to meet and it is possible that over time, they may consolidate into one forum.

### **Final year student presentations**

19. We had commenced final year student presentations in February 2020 and March 2020 (x4 providers) prior to the lockdown, with plans to visit the rest in March 2020 and April 2020. Critically, the information which would be discussed with students is contained within information booklets that had been issued to the students in January 2020 and which are available online.

### **Progress against the 2019-20 Business Plan**

20. At the January 2020 Council meeting the Executive reported against the 2019-20 Business Plan which showed, as at 31 December 2019, every planned activity was delivered within the agreed deadline. A link to the January 2020 Council paper is here: [Business Plan monitoring as at 31 December 2019](#)
21. While the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic started to be felt in March 2020, the Executive can report that this did not affect the activities recorded in the 2019-20 Business Plan and at the year-end the plan was delivered in full.
22. The 2020-21 Business Plan and the impact COVID-19 will have on that plan, is discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

**Financial report**

23. The financial year end concluded on 31 March 2020, with the external financial audit commencing on 11 May 2020. The May Council meeting receives a verbal update on the financial year position as the external audit would not have concluded. This means there is no financial report annexed to this paper.

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