

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is the Council?**

**A:** The Council ensures the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) fulfills its legal duties as a regulator for osteopaths. It does this by reviewing and deciding on policies, strategies, business planning and budgets.

By doing this, Council helps the GOsC protect the public and support osteopaths to practise safely and meet professional standards of osteopathic practice.

Our Council is made up of 5 lay members and 5 osteopath members.

### **Q: What is a lay member?**

**A:** Lay members are individuals who are not osteopaths and don't hold osteopathic qualifications.

### **Q: Why do we have lay and osteopath members on the Council team?**

**A:** It is a legal requirement for the Council team to have the same number of lay members as osteopath members. We value the contribution of osteopaths in our work to protect the public and the reputation of the profession.

### **Q: What is the difference between a lay and an osteopath member?**

**A:** There is no difference between lay and osteopath member roles, they have an equal voice and equal responsibilities.

### **Q: What is the role of the executive (or GOsC's staff team)?**

**A:** The executive is made up of 27 staff members, led by the Chief Executive and Registrar. Staff are responsible for the day to day running of the regulator across the following functions:

1. Registration
2. Education, standards and development
3. Fitness to practise
4. Assurance and resources
5. Communications and engagement

### **Q: Are the Council meetings held in person?**

**A:** We meet in person at Osteopathy House in London and we expect everyone to attend, however, if necessary online options will be available.

### **Q: What is the payment for this role?**

**A:** Council members are paid an annual fee of £7,800.

### **Q: What is the time commitment for this role?**

**A:** We expect the role to be no more than 18 days a year. This includes:

- Reading papers in advance of Council meetings. This will usually be half a day's work and other members often find that after a while they can read our papers quicker as they become more familiar with the way we work.
- Attendance at all day Council meetings of which there are up to 5 per year. The dates are planned 2 years in advance.
- Two social dinners per year which is an opportunity to build relationships with the Council team and members of our staff team.
- An annual appraisal, this is a review with the Chair of Council to provide you with feedback and support your development in the role.
- Sitting on at least one additional Committee. This will be Policy and Education Committee (PEC), Audit Committee or People Committee.
- From time to time, involvement on working groups.
- From time to time sitting on shortlisting and interview panels for which we will provide training.

**Q: Will I get paid for travel expenses to and from the Council meeting?**

**A:** Yes. You will be refunded for your travel expenses as long as you keep your receipts and fill in an expenses claim form. You will get a copy of this policy when you join.

**Q: Will I get help and support if I join the Council?**

**A:** You will get support from the Council team and staff within the GOsC when you join. There will be induction training to help you get to know the organisation and there will be ongoing training and development. The Council also hold 2 dinners throughout the year to give members a chance to meet and build working relationships.

**Q: What happens before and during a Council Meeting?**

1. Before a Council meeting: You will receive the agenda and reports from the staff team on various themes of work, one week before the Council meeting for you to read.
2. During the Council meeting: You will bring your thoughts and comments to the meeting so that you can take part in the discussions and decision making.