



Council
2 November 2016
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 agree the commencement of a tender process for the recruitment of financial auditors.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. Auditor tender timetableB. Progress against the 2016-17 Business PlanC. Financial report at end of Q2
Author	Tim Walker

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. The amendments to the Osteopaths Act 1993 enacted in the Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Act 2015 came into effect on 26 September. These amendments provide that:

“(3A) The over-arching objective of the General Council in exercising its functions is the protection of the public.

(3B) The pursuit by the General Council of its over-arching objective involves the pursuit of the following objectives—

(a) to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and well-being of the public;

(b) to promote and maintain public confidence in the profession of osteopathy; and

(c) to promote and maintain proper professional standards and conduct for members of that profession.”

3. The amendments are a welcome affirmation that our primary role is the protection of the public.
4. Following the referendum on the UK’s membership of the European Union and the changes to the UK government, it was anticipated that further work on reform of healthcare regulatory legislation was likely to be delayed.
5. However, we have now been informed that work has commenced again on a consultation document on possible reform, along with a bid for Parliamentary time in the next session of Parliament for pre-legislative scrutiny of a draft bill.
6. At present, no details of the timetable or content of the proposals is available.

Charitable status

7. We submitted the application for registration as a charity to the Charity Commission on 26 July 2016.
8. We have been advised that there are considerable delays in processing applications. We were informed on 2 September that our application had been

allocated to a case officer and was under consideration and also asked not to contact the case officer while the application is under consideration.

9. A further update will be provided to Council as soon as this is available.

Appointment of auditors

10. The GOsC's current auditors were appointed in 2008 for a period of five years and were reappointed following a competitive tender in 2013. This appointment was for an initial two year period with the possibility of an extension for a further three years. Council agreed at its meeting in July 2015 that the appointment should be extended.
11. However, our auditors have indicated to us that if they are to continue for the remaining two years (the 2015-16 audit was their eighth) they would require a significant uplift in their fees from the current fee of approximately £21k.
12. Having reviewed the audit costs of other organisations in the sector, the Executive has concluded that it would be more advantageous to commence a tender process for the appointment of new auditors in time for the 2016-17 audit. This would also allow us to work in tandem with the new auditors on the transition to Charity SORP reporting standards.
13. The proposed timetable for the appointment can be found at Annex A.

Advertising

14. The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) has been working on expanded guidelines for osteopaths. As part of the process the ASA consulted the Institute of Osteopathy (iO) and other interested parties including ourselves. The revised guidance was approved by the ASA Council in October and we anticipate that it will be published shortly. We will work the ASA/CAP and the iO to ensure that osteopaths are aware of the revised guidelines.

Appointments

15. We have commenced a major programme of recruitment for the following vacancies from 1 April 2017:
 - a. One registrant and two lay Investigating Committee members
 - b. Four registrant and three lay Professional Conduct Committee members, including a new lay Chair for the PCC
 - c. Two registrant Council members
 - d. Two registrant and two lay Policy Advisory Committee members.
16. All vacancies are advertised on the GOsC website at <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about-us/the-organisation/recruitment/> and elsewhere depending on their nature.

17. This is the largest recruitment exercise we have undertaken since 2008-9 and is a significant logistical task. Opening and closing dates for the campaign have been staggered to make the processes more manageable.
18. It is anticipated that the IC and PCC appointments will be brought to Council at its February 2017 meeting for approval but the PAC appointments will need to be approved electronically. Appointments to Council are made by the Privy Council.

OPS consultation

19. We were very pleased to be commended by the Consultation Institute (the best practice body for consultation and engagement) for our innovative work on the Osteopathic Practice Standards review. In a recent newsletter (<https://www.consultationinstitute.org/latest-trend-online-consultation/>) they described our work as 'setting the standard' for consultations allowing direct comments on documents.

Committee on Standards in Public Life regulation report

20. The Committee on Standards in Public Life recently published *Striking the Balance*, a report on upholding the principles of public life in regulation (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/striking-the-balance-upholding-the-7-principles-in-regulation>).
21. The report contains a wide range of recommendations and identifies best practice for the regulatory sector. While not all of these will be relevant to the GOsC, there is much within the report that it would be helpful to consider. I propose working with the Audit Committee to review the document in more detail and to bring back any recommendations for changes in governance to Council for its consideration.

Australia and New Zealand Memorandum of Understanding

22. We have concluded a new joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with osteopathy regulators in Australia and New Zealand as follows:
 - a. Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council
 - b. Osteopathic Board of Australia
 - c. Osteopathic Council of New Zealand
23. The MoU covers the following areas:
 - a. Regulatory information sharing
 - b. Streamlining regulatory processes
 - c. Sharing best practice

It replaces a previous document agreed in 2010, which focused only on mutual recognition and registration processes.

24. The MoU is underpinned by six-monthly conference calls and, when possible, an annual face-to-face meeting.

Values and standards in context

25. Our ongoing work on values and standards in context was presented at the Altogether Better Health Conference in Oxford in September 2016. This was a global conference attracting healthcare practitioners, students, policymakers, researchers and service users to compare perspectives and share expertise. We are also due to present this work (along with the General Dental Council) at the Scottish Government Health Conference in Edinburgh on 31 October 2016.

CEN launch

26. The pan-European standards on osteopathic healthcare provision, developed using the CEN process, were formally launched at a meeting in the European Parliament in Brussels on 29 September 2016. The event attracted an audience of osteopathic organisations from across Europe, MEPs, assistants and others.

OIA conference

27. I attended the annual Osteopathic International Alliance conference in Anaheim USA from 18-20 September where I co-chaired the annual regulation forum and also gave a presentation on some of the thinking underpinning our new CPD scheme and related activities.
28. I am also delighted to report that Charles Hunt, Principal of the BSO, has been elected Chair of the OIA for a two-year term. This is the first time that the position has been held by an individual who is UK-based.

Northern Ireland Assembly event

29. For the third successive year, NI and UK Health and Social Care Regulators, including the GOsC, came together to host an information exchange and networking event in the Northern Ireland Assembly on 13 September 2016. Hosted by Chair of Health Committee Paula Bradley, the lunchtime reception was well-attended by MLAs and other key figures in the Northern Ireland health and care sector, and represents a valuable opportunity to increase awareness in Northern Ireland of osteopathic regulation.

Other meetings

30. Recent meetings, calls, visits and speaking engagements by the Chief Executive and others include:
- BSO strategy day
 - Charles Hunt, Chair of Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions

- Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners and DEFRA
- Scottish Government Regulators' Liaison Group (Edinburgh)
- Penny Bance, Director of Registration, Education and Standards, General Chiropractic Council
- Craig Toutt, Swansea University
- Bob Davies and Sarah Spencer-Chapman, Swansea University
- Judith Neaves, Mark Andrews and Rod MacDonald at London College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Dr Pedro Ribeiro da Silva (Portuguese Regulator)
- Osteopathic Education Foundation
- Chief Executives Steering Group (Cardiff and London)
- Scottish Osteopathic Society
- Dr David Gale, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
- Inter-regulator Governance Group
- GOsC appointments workshop (and webinar)
- COEI strategy meeting
- Good Thinking Society
- Osteopathic Development Group
- Osteopathic International Alliance annual conference
- Inter-regulator Performance Group
- Professor Bill Fulford and Professor Stephen Tyreman
- BCOM first year students
- CEN standards launch
- Carol Fawkes, National Council of Osteopathic Research
- Kent and East Sussex Osteopaths
- ODG mentoring project group
- Swansea second year students
- Inter-regulatory standards meeting
- ODG advanced clinical practice group
- Institute of Osteopathy awards judging
- Mott McDonald regulators' E&D project
- GPhC professionalism seminar
- ODG Leadership programme workshop
- Scottish Government Regulatory Conference

Progress against the 2016-17 Business Plan

31. Annex B provides a progress report on the 2016-17 Business Plan at the end of Q2. At this point in the year we are not forecasting any slippage in the overall work programme.
32. We have added an additional activity to the Business Plan in section 3.3 – Governance relating to equality and diversity and also the Welsh Language Scheme which were inadvertently omitted from the draft approved by Council. The activity now reads:

'Ensure that the GOsC continues to meet its duties under the Equality Act and Welsh Language Act.'

Financial report

33. The financial report for the end of Q2 can be found at Annex C.

Recommendations:

1. To agree the commencement of a tender process for the recruitment of financial auditors.
2. To note the remainder of the report.

Audit tender timetable

Activity	Deadline
Council agree to tender	2 November 2016
Tender document reviewed and updated	17 October 2016 - 16 November 2016
Audit Committee approval of tender documents	24 November 2016
Tender document issued	28 November 2016
Tender responses received at OH	16 December 2016
Interviews held	w/c 9 January 2017
Panel recommendation agreed by Audit Committee	w/c 9 January 2017
Council decision to appoint	1 February 2017