Public business

Chief Executive & Registrar’s report

**Purpose**
To keep the Council abreast of significant recent meetings and developments.

**Recommendation**

The Council is asked to note this paper.

1.0 **Recent meetings**

1.1 Listed in Appendix 1 is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the two months since the last Council meeting.

1.2 Council members are reminded to liaise with the office before accepting external invitations to speak on behalf of the GPhC, in order to minimise overlap and to ensure they have the most up-to-date supporting material.

2.0 **Revalidation event**

2.1 At its meeting in January, Council confirmed a set of principles to underpin future work on revalidation. It was agreed that the principles should be tested with pharmacy professionals and their representative groups as well as patients and patient representative bodies, and that the executive should develop proposals for taking forward further work, including research, to enable the development of suitable models.

2.2 To this end, the office is currently planning a revalidation stakeholder event, which should enable presentation and discussion of potential key issues that
need to be explored, to build understanding of what revalidation should potentially consider for different scopes of practice, and the sources of information and evidence that may be relevant. Invitations, including invitations to Council members, have now been issued.

3.0 Confidentiality guidance

3.1 As Council were informed in May, the original version of our *Guidance on patient confidentiality* contained a printing error. We have had the guidance reprinted at no cost to us, and the revised version will be sent out with the upcoming edition of *Regula+e*, which is being posted to registrants in the last week of May.

4.0 Recognition of Professional Qualifications (RPQ) European Commission Directive

4.1 The GPhC has contributed to a joint set of recommended amendments to the RPQ directive (details are confidential to the organisations at this point), along with all the other health professional regulators except the Health Professions Council. Our contribution was informed by the recent Council workshop. The next stage of this work will be to lobby members of the European Parliament and Council with these amendments.

5.0 Guidance on publications/disclosure

5.1 The GPhC has recently published a new document¹ that sets out our approach to the publication and disclosure of information that it holds about registrants and registered pharmacies.

5.2 The policy sets out what information the GPhC will routinely publish and how we will deal with requests for information. This includes guidance on the information we will publish and disclose about a Fitness to Practise case, at each stage of the process.

6.0 Recent GPhC responses to Scottish and Welsh consultations

6.1 The GPhC has recently responded to the review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community in Scotland, and the Welsh Government consultation on proposals to reform and modernise the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) regulations 1992/662.

6.2 The Scottish review aims to enhance the role of pharmacists and encourage closer working with GPs and other community based services. It is examining how NHS pharmaceutical care can best contribute to the ambitions set out in the Healthcare Quality Strategy for Scotland - care that is person-centred, safe and effective every time. In our response, we took the opportunity to provide an update on our proposals for standards for registered pharmacies, and to clarify that we feel that our proposals are compatible with the ambitions of the Healthcare Quality Strategy for Scotland around which this review was based.

6.3 The Welsh consultation related primarily to the application process and decision mechanisms for opening a new pharmacy in Wales; in our response we pointed out our role in setting standards, registering and inspecting pharmacies. It also looked at their process for pharmaceutical lists and a requirement for pharmacists to provide “certain information about their fitness to practise.” We set out the GPhC’s role in this area recommending they consider alternative language within the regulations to differentiate between a local regulatory role and national regulation which makes determinations on fitness for practise.

6.4 Both responses will be published on the relevant government website, and are available from the office on request.

7.0 1 Lambeth High Street/129 Lambeth Road

7.1 Like us, the RPS is looking at their long term accommodation strategy. In their case this could include selling 129 Lambeth Road. Our position is not affected by this. If they do decide to sell the building, and find a buyer before we move out in September 2014, any sale would have to accommodate the GPhC as sitting tenants. The Council will be considering a paper at this meeting (06.12/C/12) which seeks formal approval to entering a new lease on the building.

7.2 Work on the review of our own long term accommodation strategy is under way, in line with the corporate plan.

8.0 Registered pharmacies consultation

8.1 Over the 13-week consultation period we hosted or co-hosted 35 external engagement events with a range of different stakeholders. Our consultation launch events in England, Scotland, and Wales, attracted high level delegates from key professional and representative organisations, government, health bodies, and patient groups. We worked independently and also with other organisations to publicise the consultation and to have meaningful engagement
with as many interested audiences as possible. For example, we arranged and spoke at consultation events at different local networks, including primary care commissioning networks (PCC), local practice forums (LPF), and local pharmaceutical committees (LPCs).

8.2 We worked closely with an external and expert organisation, Community Research, to design and host three deliberative and facilitated consultation events with patients and members of the public – in London, Glasgow and Cardiff. In addition to those three events, together with Community Research we developed a toolkit to support organisations who represent or work with patients and the public, to facilitate their own meetings to discuss the registered pharmacies consultation. The toolkit includes a guide to good consultation and facilitation practice and was designed to raise awareness of the role of the GPhC and its work on modernising the regulation of registered pharmacies. We distributed copies of that toolkit to over 30 organisations. We also used elements of that toolkit at our three deliberative events.

8.3 In developing the three events with patients and the public, and on the advice of the Consultation Institute and Community Research, we invested in staff training and now have 18 certified facilitators on our staff.

8.4 In addition to our work across England, we spent nearly a week in Scotland and then in Wales, engaging with patients and the public, registrants, representatives, and pharmacy owners and collecting their feedback on our proposals.

8.5 The dedicated consultation website www.registeredpharmacies.org had over 4,700 unique visitors.

8.6 There have been twenty seven articles about the consultation in the media, with most of these articles appearing in the pharmacy trade media. The vast majority of the articles (over 80%) were positive or neutral in tone and content.

8.7 We have had approximately 450 responses, plus the feedback collected from our engagement events. At the time of writing this report, we are analysing the responses and will be producing a report for the June Council meeting.

9.0 Response to Law Commission consultation

9.1 The deadline for written responses to the Law Commission’s consultation on its proposals for reforming the framework of health and social care professional regulation is 31 May 2012. At the time of writing this report, the Council had agreed the draft response to the consultation (subject to minor additional drafting) at its meeting on 17 May, and had delegated the Chair of Council to
approve the final text of the response on Council’s behalf.

10.0 **Consultations**

10.1 A list of active consultations with which the organisation is or is not engaging is included at Appendix 1.

**Recommendation**

The Council is asked to note this paper.

*Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive & Registrar*
*General Pharmaceutical Council*
*duncan.rudkin@pharmacyregulation.org*, tel 020 3365 3501

*25 May 2012*
List of Meetings

Listed below is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the two months since the last Council meeting. Initials are as follows: Bob Nicholls (RMN), Duncan Rudkin (DR), Hilary Lloyd (HL), Bernard Kelly (BK), Hugh Simpson (HS), Elaine Mulingani (EM):

Chair:
- SRO, Health Education England (HEE), Directors of Education, Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) and General Medical Council (GMC) & Head of Education & Registration Policy, GPhC – meeting to discuss working with HEE
- Registered Premises Consultation Event – Local Practice Forum, Swansea
- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Wales – update meeting
- Patient and Public Involvement Registered Premises Consultation event - Cardiff
- Chair, Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Welsh Pharmacy Board – update meeting
- Chair, RPS English Board & Director for England – update meeting (with DR)
- Chairman & CEO, Dispensing Doctors Association – introductory meeting (with DR)
- Health Education England Steering Group meeting
- Clinical Disputes Forum Seminar on Public Interest Disclosure
- National Pharmacy Association (NPA) annual England conference - *Putting the PH into Pharmacy*
- Registered pharmacy standards and related medicines issues meeting (with DR)
- Health Regulators Chair’s meeting
- Society of Apothecaries Galen & Farr Medal Presentation and Dinner

Staff:
- Registered premises consultation event – pharmacy professionals, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Trust (HS)
- General Secretary, Vice Chair and former General Secretary, Institute of Pharmacy Management International (DR) - update meeting
- Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies (AImp) Superintendents’ Forum – registered pharmacies consultation (HS)
- CEO, National Pharmacy Association – update meeting (DR)
- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Wales - Meeting to discuss Welsh Govt.
consultation on Pharmaceutical Services Regulations (HS)
- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England – update meeting (DR)
- Registered premises consultation event – English Pharmacy Advisory Board, Staffordshire (HL)
- Registered premises consultation event – Greater Manchester LPCs, Manchester (HL)
- Clinical Pharmacy Congress – speaking (DR)
- Head of Scottish Affairs, General Medical Council – update meeting (DR)
- Health Professional Policy Lead for Regulation, Professionalism and Education, Scottish Government – update meeting (DR)
- Head of Policy and Development, Community Pharmacy Scotland – update meeting (DR)
- Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Scotland – registered premises consultation (DR)
- Registered premises consultation event – British Association of Pharmacy Wholesalers (HS)
- King’s Fund Board Leadership Programme Seminar - The Stafford Story: A dark episode in the history of the NHS (HS)
- Chair, RPS English Board & Director for England, RPS – update meeting (DR with RMN)
- Chairman & CEO, Dispensing Doctors Association – introductory meeting (DR with RMN)
- President and Vice President, Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK – update meeting (DR)
- Registered premises consultation event – superintendents/pharmacy owners, London (HL)
- Deputy Head and Lead Negotiator, NHS Employers Primary Care Workforce and Contracting – update meeting (DR, EM, HS)
- Chief Executives Steering Group meeting (DR)
- Chairman & Director, Pharmacists Defence Association – update meeting (DR, EM)
- Superintendent Pharmacist, Co-operative Pharmacy (HL)
- Associate Director Medicines Management, NHS South of England (DR, HS, HL) – update meeting
- Northern Chief Pharmacists meeting – speaking (DR)
- Company Chemists Association (CCA) Chairman’s Dinner (DR)
- Registered pharmacy standards and related medicines issues meeting (DR, HS with RMN)
- NHS Commissioning Board meeting on Developing agreements with Professional Partners for Clinical Advice and Leadership (DR)
- C&D Awards Dinner (DR)
- Department of Health (DH) Professional Standards liaison regular
meeting (DR, EM, HS, HL)

- NHS Employers Whistleblowing Summit (DR)
- British Pharmaceutical Students Association liaison meeting (DR)
- DH Pharmacy supervision project board meeting (DR, HS)
- Department of Health Quality Information Committee (HS)
## Consultations (week ending 18/05/2012)

*Consultations on which a final office decision is pending are in italics.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Response</th>
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| Council member and chair appointments to professional regulatory bodies: Consultation on role of Professional Standards Authority in advising the Privy Council | CHRE                      | Section 227 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 makes some changes to how council members and chairs of regulatory bodies are appointed. Under these new arrangements:  
  * The regulators will manage the appointment process, on behalf of the Privy Council  
  * The decision to appoint an individual to a regulatory body council, as a member or as the Chair, still sits with the Privy Council.  
  * CHRE, as the Professional Standards Authority, will advise the Privy Council about the process the regulator has used.  
CHRE is consulting on how the Professional Standards Authority will carry out this advisory role.  
[www.chre.org.uk//satellite/473](http://www.chre.org.uk//satellite/473)                                                                 | 08/08/12 | Christine Gray Lead       |
| Nursing and Midwifery Council (Constitution) (Amendment) Order: A paper for consultation | Department of Health      | Department of Health is seeking views on proposals to change the legislation for the NMC to reduce the size of its governing council and to amend the length of time for which council members can hold office.  
| Responsible Officers in the new health architecture: A public consultation on the amendments to the Medical Profession (Responsible Officers) 2010 Regulations | Department of Health      | The consultation proposes changes to the role of Responsible Officers. Part three of the consultation proposes a requirement for Responsible Officers to check the language competence of doctors working in England.  
(NB: Language testing is a clinical governance function. As clinical governance functions are the responsibility of the devolved administrations this consultation applies to England only)  | 25/07/12 | Martha Pawluczyk Lead       |
| Accreditation standards for organisations that hold voluntary registers for health | CHRE                      | From November 2012 CHRE will set standards for organisations that hold voluntary registers for those working in health and social care occupations and will accredit the register if they meet those standards. It will then be known as an 'Accredited Register'.  
The draft Standards are now available for consultation. CHRE are inviting responses on the content of the draft Standards and the impact they could have as set out in the consultation | 10/07/12 | Recommendation not to respond |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>and social care occupations</th>
<th>Department of Health</th>
<th>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Towards a workforce strategy for the public health system</th>
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<th>Consultation on the routes to the general practitioner and specialist registers</th>
<th>General Medical Council</th>
<th>Consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the way doctors are assessed for GP or specialist registration through the equivalence route.</th>
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<td><a href="http://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=246&amp;status=2&amp;criteria=1">http://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation_Dtl.aspx?consult_Id=246&amp;status=2&amp;criteria=1</a></td>
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<th>Review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care of Patients in the Community - Scotland</th>
<th>Scottish Government</th>
<th>Evidence Gathering Exercise – March to June 2012. A wide ranging review with the aim of enhancing the role of pharmacists and encouraging closer working with GPs and other community based services. It will examine the pharmaceutical needs of patients and the NHS and the arrangements for providing NHS Pharmaceutical Care Services across Scotland.</th>
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<td>Review of NHS Pharmaceutical Care</td>
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<th>Call for evidence: Induction for doctors new to practice in the UK</th>
<th>General Medical Council</th>
<th>The GMC are developing an induction programme for doctors new to their register. They are seeking views, both about the current arrangements for supporting doctors new to practice, and to explore how such an induction programme might work</th>
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<td><a href="https://www.chre.org.uk/voluntaryregisters/468/">https://www.chre.org.uk/voluntaryregisters/468/</a></td>
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| 29/06/12 | Damian Day (reviewing) |
| 15/06/12 | Martha Pawluczyk Recommendation not to respond |
| 04/05/12 | Lynsey Cleland Lead Sent 03/05/12 |
| 02/04/12 | Martha Pawluczyk/Priya Warner Sent 02/04/12 |