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 2 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 Law Commission review

2.1 The Law Commission has now held or planned a range of engagement meetings with its stakeholders, including the regulatory bodies. We have had two useful meetings with the team.

2.2 The Commission is planning a day “conference” in October to share early thinking, in advance of a public consultation (on policy rather than legislative drafting) next Spring.
3.0 Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE)

3.1 Performance review
The CHRE performance review report for 2010/11, which contains CHRE’s reports on the individual health professional regulators’ performance and also its views on the key issues and concerns across health professional regulation, was laid before Parliament and the devolved legislatures on 29 June. Both a summary and the full text are available to view at www.chre.org.uk/ (follow the link from the blue advert box on the home page).

3.2 Proposed levy
Following consideration of the responses from all the regulators to its levy proposals, CHRE has sent a further paper to the Department of Health recommending a hybrid approach balancing registrant numbers with fee income. Copies of the paper are available on request.

When the regulations are laid next year (subject to Parliamentary approval) there will be a further consultation on the amount the Professional Standards Authority needs to raise to carry out its functions. A final decision on the charge to be applied to each regulator will lie with the Privy Council.

3.3 Update on CHRE’s transition to the Professional Standards Authority
The CHRE CEO has confirmed that the Professional Standards Authority will not come into being before July 2012 and therefore it is his understanding that the maximum possible charge in the financial year 2012-2013 will be for nine months of the Authority’s operational costs.

3.4 Commission on effectiveness and efficiency
CHRE had previously aimed to provide a progress update to the Department in late August and, subject to timely approval of the business case, to provide the final advice in December. However, the DH is yet to approve the business case and so CHRE is now estimating that it may be able to provide an interim update in October followed by the final report in February 2012. It will confirm these timings once the necessary approvals and agreements are secured, and will try to ensure that the delay has minimal impact on the regulators’ work programmes.

3.5 Report on effective engagement on patients and the public
CHRE has published a report on the above subject, which can be found at http://www.chre.org.uk/satellite/282/.
3.6 Modern and Efficient Fitness to Practise Adjudication

CHRE has published a report on the above subject, which can be found at http://www.chre.org.uk/satellite/359/.

3.7 Regulators’ Forum

The Chair and Chief Executive attended the CHRE Regulators’ Forum on 5 July. Topics discussed included: the regulatory bodies’ need for more information about the cost-efficiency review; co-operation and information sharing between systems regulators and professional regulators; responses to the Law Commission; FtP transparency and accountability, CHRE’s transition to the PSA; the Performance Review, and the future role and meetings of the Forum.

4.0 Health Committee accountability hearings with GMC and NMC

4.1 The House of Commons Health Select Committee held the first of what it described as annual accountability hearings with the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC), and has now published its reports of these hearings: http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/news/11-07-26-nmcreportpublished/.

5.0 Consultations on professional mobility

5.1 In June, the European Commission launched a Green Paper setting out its proposals for modernisation of the Directive. We will respond in due course; our response is likely to echo the key points we made in the pre-consultation response and in our evidence to the Lords subcommittee:

- The need to establish a duty on all European regulators to share fitness to practise information proactively;
- The need for greater clarity in legislation about when regulators such as the GPhC can test the language competence of EEA professionals wishing to register and work in Great Britain; and
- The importance of ensuring that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians returning to practice after a break are up to date, wherever they qualified.

5.2 The GPhC continues to work with other healthcare regulators to progress these issues through its membership of the Alliance of UK Health Regulators on Europe (AURE).
6.0 **Revalidation**

6.1 The revalidation stakeholder event was held on the 8th July (pm) at the GPhC headquarters. Attendees comprised representatives from the various sectors of pharmacy practice, regulatory bodies, pharmacy bodies, GPhC Council, CHRE, PPI groups and staff. Feedback from the event will be considered at the next Task and Finish group meeting scheduled to take place on the 8th September (am) and a further report will be made to the Council in due course.

7.0 **Working together with other regulators**

7.1 We are working with other regulators informally to identify topics for possible joint workshops on regulatory topics.

7.2 We are working with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to finalise a memorandum of understanding and operational protocols to facilitate efficient collaboration between the two bodies.

7.3 We are working with the General Optical Council to agree a protocol for the management of complaints of illegal contact lens sales by pharmacies.

7.4 We continue to explore in detail the potential for sharing functions and resources in a number of areas, including office accommodation and hearings venue space, with other regulators.

7.5 We recently had a useful and very practically-focused meeting with senior CQC staff to discuss practical steps that can be taken to work more effectively with them.

8.0 **Business plan update**

8.1 Work continues on delivering the objectives of the 2011/2012 business plan. The following provides a brief overview of activities:

**Office accommodation**: A requirements gathering exercise is well under way and will help define our needs and determine how any office space will be utilised. Property viewings within the defined search area of Central London are also helping to give us a good understanding of the pros and cons of our current location.

**Registration**: The rolling register successfully went live on schedule at the start of June 2011. Registrants with expiry dates in October 2011 were sent their renewal notices in mid June and are able to complete their renewal through
myGPhC or by phone. Notices for the end of year renewal were sent in mid August. An update on current renewal levels is included in the Performance Monitoring Report to Council.

**Information and Communications Technology (ICT):** We have recruited an IT Strategic Business Manager who is already providing guidance and support for ICT related projects. The procurement process to identify a service provider who will host and maintain the GPhC’s ICT infrastructure has begun. We have also started to map existing legacy systems to lay the foundation for the identification of their replacements.

**Website Improvement:** A new website is still scheduled to be launched in mid September. This will conclude the move to a new content management system which will allow for more efficient updating of site content. The content and look and feel of the website have also been reviewed whilst taking account of the views of current website users.

**Developing our organisation:** The new organisational structure will go live over the next couple of months. With the impending first anniversary of the GPhC’s establishment as a new regulator, all staff have been invited to attend a conference on 30 September 2011 not only to acknowledge what has been achieved so far but to look forward and take time to reflect on what kind of regulator we are going to become and how as an organisation and as colleagues we need to operate and behave. Online surveys are also being used to allow GPhC staff to submit their views on a range of topics. Work has begun on identifying potential providers for a management development programme.

**Development of Standards:** Premises: Please see following section.

**Development of Standards:** Education and Training: The pharmacy technician education standards were rolled out in 2010/11 and have been fully embedded in all GPhC approved programmes. The first two universities will be using new pharmacist standards from September 2011 with 9 further Universities being accredited during the academic year 2011/12 for use in September 2012.

**Fitness to Practise:** Progress on the disposal of legacy cases inherited from the previous regulator as well as the current level of the GPhC caseload is outlined in the performance monitoring report to Council.
9.0 Premises standards

9.1 Since the Council workshop at the end of July work has continued to develop our approach to the regulation of pharmacy premises and owners of the premises. We have mapped out what now appear to be the three key work streams and our current progress. We have:

- begun the process to obtain legal counsel in relation to the scope for registration criteria
- started to draft the standards for premises/owners
- begun to set out and identify all our enforcement powers in relation the owners/superintendents of pharmacy premises as well as the premises themselves.

We plan to run a follow up workshop with proposals for the Council to consider once further progress has been made.

10.0 Welsh Language Scheme

10.1 The CE&R has been delegated the responsibility for approving the GPhC’s Welsh Language Scheme. The GPhC’s draft Welsh Language Scheme was subject to a twelve week consultation. The scheme has now been finalised and has been submitted to the Welsh Language Board for approval.

11.0 Consultations

11.1 A list of active and new 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
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31 August 2011
### Active and new consultations (week ending 19/8/2011)

*New consultations, and those on which a final office decision is pending, are in italics.*

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<thead>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>By</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation on reference point for external examining</td>
<td>The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)</td>
<td>This consultation invites views on the revised text of QAA’s guidance on external examining, currently set out in the Code of practice, Section 4: External examining. QAA is revising its guidance primarily to incorporate the recommendations of the recent review of external examining led by UUK/GuildHE. <a href="http://www.qaa.ac.uk/news/consultation/refpointexternexam.asp">http://www.qaa.ac.uk/news/consultation/refpointexternexam.asp</a></td>
<td>7 September 2011</td>
<td>Damian Day (Lead)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultation on proposed changes to regulations for Care Quality Commission registration</td>
<td>Department of Health (DH)</td>
<td>The CQC took responsibility for the regulation of health and adult social care providers in April 2009. The registration system that CQC operates is, and will continue to be, a key mechanism for assuring that healthcare and adult social care providers meet essential levels of safety and quality. The Department of Health has carried out an early review of the regulations that underpin this system to ensure that CQC learns from early implementation experiences and that the system reflects the Government’s objective of keeping the burden of regulation to a minimum. This initial review has identified 19 proposals on which CQC are consulting. These cover a range of issues under three broad headings: • Changes to the extent of regulation; • Technical amendments to the regulations; • Minor clarifications to the regulations. <a href="http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_128222">http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_128222</a></td>
<td>7 October 2011</td>
<td>Hugh Simpson (Lead)</td>
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<td>Review of public appointments regulation</td>
<td>The Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA)</td>
<td>This consultation seeks views on a package of reforms that will make regulation simpler, attract a wider range of applicants, and ensure that responsibility for making successful public appointments on merit, after a fair and open process, is placed firmly with Government Departments and their Ministers. <a href="http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/publications/consultation/consultation-paper.pdf">http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/publications/consultation/consultation-paper.pdf</a></td>
<td>28 September 2011</td>
<td>Christine Gray (Lead)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
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| Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive | European Commission | This Green Paper is aimed at gathering stakeholders’ views on a modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC). This Directive, adopted in 2005, sets the rules for mutual recognition of professional qualifications between Member States. The reform of the system of recognition of professional qualifications as a means to facilitate mobility is one of the priority actions proposed by the Commission in the Single Market Act. With the view to preparing this reform, the Commission wishes to consult stakeholders on  
- new approaches to mobility  
- ways to build on achievements  
| Student Fitness to Practise Guidance: consultation | General Osteopathic Council | This consultation seeks views on the GosC’s guidance about student fitness to practise for osteopathic students and for osteopathic educational institutions. [http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/consulting-you/](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/consulting-you/) | 1 September 2011 | Joanne Martin (Lead) | Recommendation not to respond |
Appendix 2

List of Meetings

Listed below is a non-exhaustive selection of significant meetings held during the three 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:
- Independent Pharmaceutical Federation relaunch lunch with Kevin Barron MP, chair of All Party Pharmacy Group, to discuss with independent pharmacists the important changes taking place in the NHS and the role of the community pharmacist.
- Stephen Dorrell BLP seminar – A year on – where are we now? (health reform)
- Regulators’ chairs’ meeting
- RPS English Board Chair and Director for England - catch-up (with DR)
- Introduction of NHS Leadership Framework with keynote speech from Andrew Lansley
- CHRE Regulators’ Forum (with DR)
- Medical Education England board meeting
- Revalidation GPhC stakeholder event (with DR)
- All-Party Pharmacy Group summer reception and AGM
- BLP seminar – are our health professionals still fit to practise? (Dr Clare Gerada) (with DR; SB and CD)
- Interim Transition Director, NCAS (with DR)
- Telecon with Chair of Health Professions Council
- CPhO for England – catch-up
- CEO & President, RPS – update meeting (with DR)
- CEO, NHS Education for Scotland
- Visit to hospital pharmacy, Leeds
- Professional Standards Division, DH
- Chair, RPS Welsh Pharmacy Board – update meeting (with DR)
- Chair, PSNC – introductory meeting with new Chair
- Chair, Pharmacy and Public Health Forum – introductory meeting (with DR)
Staff:

- APTUK Conference (DR & HL presenting)
- CQC & GPhC interaction meeting (DR, HS, HL)
- Observation of GMC & NMC evidence to Health Committee (EM)
- NHS Education for Scotland educational session: pharmacy undergraduate and pre-registration education into the future (DR, HS)
- CEO, Pharmacists’ Defence Association (HL)
- Visit to hospital pharmacy, Leeds (HS, HL)
- DH Professional Standards liaison regular meeting (DR, EM, HL, HS)
- Director of Corporate Resources - General Optical Council, Horwath Clarke Whitehill (auditors) -- tax issues for regulators (BK)
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regular liaison meeting (DR, HS, HL, EM)
- Ann Jacklin, Association of Teaching Hospital Pharmacists, to discuss premises project issues (HS)
- General Dental and Optical Councils’ CEOs, to discuss collaboration – DR
- RPS English Board Chair and Director for England (DR, with RMN)
- Meetings/telecons with CPhOs for Scotland, Wales and England (DR)
- Head of Quality Assurance, General Dental Council – pre-meeting to discuss GDC/GPhC evidence to the House of Lords subcommittee inquiry into the mobility of health professionals (DR, HS)
- Oral evidence to House of Lords subcommittee Inquiry into the mobility of health professionals in the context of the EC review of the Professional Qualifications Directive (DR)
- Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) (HS)
- Chief Executives’ Steering Group (health & social care regulators) (DR)
- Editor, Chemist & Druggist (HS)
- BLP Seminar: Clinical leadership – undervalued or overplayed?
- Training videos for external registrant training provider (DR, HL)
- Radio interviews – pharmacy technician registration (DR)
- Catch up with RPS Director of Shared Services (DR)
- CHRE Regulators’ Forum (DR, with RMN)
- Demonstration of robotic dispensing technology, Pharmatrust (DR, EM)
- Premises project stakeholder event in Cardiff (HS)
- Revalidation stakeholder event (DR, with RMN)
- Pharmacy project board meeting, DH (DR)
- Law Commission, to discuss its plan for the forthcoming legislative review (DR, EM)
- Interim Transition Director, NCAS (DR with RMN)
- Revolution, evolution or dissolution: A panel discussion about NHS
reform with Stephen Dorrel and Mike Farrar (HS)

- CHRE CEO meeting to discuss governance and standards for appointments to regulators’ councils, plus general catch-up (DR)
- Premises project stakeholder event in Edinburgh (HS)
- RPS Professional empowerment - workplace pressures meeting (DR)
- Professional Adviser for Regulation and Workforce Standards, Scottish Government (HS)
- Head of Patient Safety, NPSA -- engagement on premises regulation incl. standards (HS)
- CEO RPS (DR)
- General Dental and Optical Councils staff to plan business seminar (HS)
- Group Healthcare Public Affairs Director, Alliance Boots (DR)
- Superintendent pharmacists’ meeting (to update them on progress with technician registration) (DR, HL)
- CEO etc. of PSNC (DR, HS, HL)
- Meeting with health regulator representatives to discuss joint working on procurement in the light of Enabling Excellence (BK)
- CEO & President, RPS – update meeting (DR, with RMN)
- Interview with London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine academic to inform EU study of cross-border health care in Europe (HS)
- CHRE seminar to explore how regulators can work together to achieve operational excellence (HL, EM)
- Potential premises visits (DR, BK)
- Director of Communications, MHRA (HS)
- Telecon with CPhO for England to discuss preregistration examination (HL)
- Procurement officer, NMC, to discuss approaches to IT procurement (BK)
- Director of Resources, GOC – catch-up (BK)
- CEO, PSNI – update meeting (DR)
- Chair, RPS Welsh Pharmacy Board - update meeting (DR with RMN)
- Chair, Pharmacy and Public Health Forum – introductory meeting (DR with RMN)
- NCAS, Interim Transition Director etc. - meeting to discuss their data systems (DR)
- CHRE evidence submission workshop (EM)
- PDA – premises standards (HL, HS)
- CEO, NPA – premises standards (HS)
- MHRA, Inspections Manager (HL)