

## **CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK**

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### **Background**

1. The GOC and all healthcare regulators have a statutory duty to consult and engage with their stakeholders. Council approved a stakeholder engagement strategy in November 2007. Approaches to implementing the strategy were further discussed at the Council meeting in May 2008. The consultation framework is one of the agreed ways of implementing the strategy.

### **The framework**

2. The framework is designed to ensure that we are effectively involving stakeholders in our policy and decision making process. The framework outlines our duties, methods and ambitions for consultation.

3. The target audience is both internal, as a 'how-to' guide for consultation, and external so that our stakeholders can see our commitment to consultation and hold us to account.

### **Process**

4. The Consultation Framework was sent to committee chairs for their initial comments in December 2008. It was discussed at the GOC committee meetings in the first cycle of this year (Jan – Mar). Finally, it was sent to the optical bodies for their feedback earlier this month. Suggestions were received at each stage of the process. These have been taken on board and the framework has been updated and revised accordingly.

### **Action**

5. Once the framework has been approved by Council, it will be used as the basis for future GOC consultations.

6. The Communications Officer will be responsible for coordinating consultations and ensuring that they are carried out in accordance with the framework.

7. It is intended that this is a 'living' document, and that the Communications Officer will continue to update and revise the framework based on any further feedback received from our stakeholders or in order to reflect changes in best practice.