

WHITE PAPER UPDATE

1. Legislation

GOC Constitution Order

1. The GOC's Constitution Order, setting out the constitutional arrangements for the new Council, was laid in Parliament on 4th March 2009. The Order will come into force on 1st April 2009.

2. No substantive changes have been made to the Order following the consultation which closed in November 2008.

3. The Order can be found at **Annex 1**.

Committee Constitution Rules

4. At its meeting of 20th November 2008, the Council made revisions to its Committee Constitution Rules. These have now received the requisite approval from the Privy Council.

5. Changes to the constitution of the Fitness to Practise Committee and Registration Appeals Committee came into force on 5th January 2009. All other changes come into force on 1st April 2009.

6. The revised rules can be found at **Annex 2**.

Further Legislation

7. The original timetable outlining numerous Section 60 Orders that was provided the Department of Health (DH) in 2007-8 is being revisited. The DH is seeking advice from CHRE regarding priorities for changes to the legislation, and will be revising its timetable accordingly.

2. Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator (OHPA)

8. The Department of Health (DH) has established a Project Board to oversee the setting up of OHPA. The Project Board will consider the resources in terms of accommodation, finance, information technology, processes and procedures necessary for the set up of OHPA. The Director of Standards is currently the GOC's representative on the Project Board. The Project Board is to meet monthly – the first meeting was held on 18th February 2009; the next meeting is on 23rd March.

9. It is envisaged that OHPA will hear its first cases in 2011. These will initially be cases referred to it from the GMC only. Following a period of bedding in, the GOC will then begin to refer its cases to OHPA. DH has assured the GOC that no other regulator will leapfrog the GOC's entry.

10. The initial work of the Project Board will largely be concerned with the appointment of a Chair and Chief Executive. The Project Board has considered draft person specifications and job descriptions for these roles. It is intended that the Chair will be appointed in June 2009, and the Chief Executive thereafter.

11. The Project Board is also establishing a Project Reference Group which will include representatives from key stakeholder bodies, including regulators, professional and representative bodies, and patient groups.

12. In terms of accommodation, various options will be considered but it anticipated that OHPA will require a presence in London.