

**CET post 2010: reaching the future**

**Part 1 – Background information**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The General Optical Council (GOC) invites you to comment on changes it proposes to make to its Continuing Education and Training (CET) Scheme from 2010 onwards.
- 1.2 The current cycle of the GOC's CET scheme will come to an end on 31 December 2009. This offers an opportunity for Council to introduce amendments to the Scheme for the cycle commencing 1 January 2010.
- 1.3 This consultation is available on the GOC website at [www.optical.org](http://www.optical.org).
- 1.4 Responses should be returned by no later than 31 January 2008.
- 1.5 You can submit your response by:
  - completing the online process
  - by post to the following address:

Dian Taylor  
Deputy Registrar  
General Optical Council  
41 Harley Street  
London  
W1G 8DJ
  - by email to [dtaylor@optical.org](mailto:dtaylor@optical.org)

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The GOC has used the powers given to it under Section 11A of the Opticians Act 1989 (amended 2005) to introduce a mandatory CET Scheme. The statutory details of the Scheme are given in the Council's CET Rules 2005 (amended 2007). The Rules are underpinned by the GOC's CET Principles and Requirements (P&R) document. The Rules and P&R document are available on the GOC website at [www.optical.org](http://www.optical.org).
- 2.2 Under the Act the GOC is able to appoint a CET administrator to manage the Scheme on its behalf. The GOC appointed Vantage Technologies Ltd as its CET Administrator. Vantage has built a website – [www.cetoptics.co.uk](http://www.cetoptics.co.uk) – as an online tool to administer the scheme on behalf of the GOC and which registrants use to manage their own CET portfolios.

## **3. Key CET Scheme events**

- 3.1 The CET Rules came into effect on 1 July 2005 and on the same date the contract with Vantage Technologies Ltd took effect.
- 3.2 The first three year cycle concluded on 31 December 2006.
- 3.3 The GOC consulted on a review of the Rules and the P&R document in November 2005.
- 3.4 This review resulted in changes to the Rules and the P&R document which came into effect on 1 January 2007 at the start of the second three-year CET cycle.
- 3.5 The second three-year CET cycle will conclude on 31 December 2009.
- 3.6 The five year contract with Vantage will terminate on 30 June 2010.

## **4. CET Policy and Development Group**

- 4.1 The Council agreed to establish a CET Policy and Development (P&D) Group to develop, in consultation with registrants' representatives and members of Council, recommendations for changes to the CET Scheme to be introduced from 1 January 2010; and to make recommendations to Council on the future management of the Scheme when the current contract expires in 2010. The members of the P&D Group are listed in Appendix 1.

## **5. Existing key principles to be sustained in the CET Scheme from 2010 onwards**

- 5.1 Following discussions the P&D Group concluded that the following existing Scheme principles should continue and that the GOC should consider strengthening the legislation or CET P&R document, underpinning these existing principles. This is not an exhaustive list of all the principles of the current scheme: it is, rather, a reflection of those principles which the P&D Group, following its discussions, concluded were core to the Scheme and should not be amended. These principles are currently implemented through the approval process and are set out in the CET Rules and in the CET P&R document.
- i. *CET will continue to be based on ensuring the maintenance of at least entry level standards as defined by the core competences required for entry to the respective registers or specialities.*
  - ii. *Flexibility in approval of CET will continue to allow for CET to be tailored to meet the needs of newly qualified/experienced practitioners, and individual practitioners' preferences for specific areas of practice, as well as elements of CPD.*
  - iii. *The Scheme will continue to require CET Providers to be listed with the CET Administrator before they may offer CET to Users;*
  - iv. *Approval of all CET will be prospective. As an operational matter, the GOC will consider how best to approve CET offered by recognised international bodies.*
  - v. *The Scheme will continue to require Providers to keep a record of all CET completed by Users.*
  - vi. *The Scheme will continue to require Users to inform the GOC of the CET they have completed.*
  - vii. *The Scheme will continue to be based on a points system.*

## **6. Timetable**

- 6.1 The overall timetable for the development and introduction of the CET Scheme from January 2010 is set out in Appendix 2.
- 6.2 The final structure of the Scheme post 2010 will be considered at the Council meeting in March 2008; and thereafter, following the incorporation of any further changes, put into draft Rules, which will be subject to further formal consultation through the Summer of 2008.

## Appendix 1

### Membership of the CET Policy and Development Group Established June 2007

Dr Geoff Harris (Chairman)  
Dr Peter Kyle  
Mr David Pyle  
Professor Mike Salmon

#### In attendance

Mrs H Robinson  
Mrs D Taylor  
Mr P Coe  
Mr P Ireland  
Ms K Fielding

### Membership of the CET Advisory Panel for advice to the Policy and Development Group

**For the GOC:** Dr G Harris (Chairman)  
Miss R Bailey, Dr P Kyle  
Miss G Morgan, Mr D Pyle  
Professor M Salmon

**For the ABDO** Sir Anthony Garrett  
Ms E Grisdale

**For the AOP** Mr B Hughes  
Mr E Bickerstaffe

**For the College of Optometrists**  
Ms A Crook

**For FODO** Ms G Robinson

**In attendance** Mr G Carson (Vantage Technologies Ltd)  
Mr P Coe (GOC)  
Ms L Morris (Vantage Technologies Ltd)  
Dr T Ray (Vantage Technologies Ltd)  
Mrs H Robinson (GOC)  
Mrs D Taylor (GOC)

## Appendix 2

### Timetable for the development and introduction of the CET Scheme from January 2010

22 Nov 2007	Council asked to consider the content of a public consultation document through to January 2008.
End Jan 2008	CET P&D Group consider comments received following public consultation.
13 Mar 2008	Council meeting receive, consider and approve the main principles of the Scheme for implementation from 1 January 2010.
Mar – Jun 2008	GOC executive work with solicitors to draft amended CET Rules to give effect to the agreed Scheme from 1 January 2010.
Jun 2008	Council asked to consider draft Rules and agree content for public [Rules] consultation.
June – Sept 2008	Public [Rules] consultation on amended CET Rules.
Nov 2008	Council receive, consider and if appropriate formally 'make' CET Rules.
Nov 2008	CET Rules sent to the DH/Privy Council to complete legislative processes.
1 Jan 2010	CET Rules (2010) come into effect.