

**COUNCIL**

**Report from the Chair of Council**

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**Meeting:** 11 November 2015

**Status:** for noting

**Lead responsibility:** Gareth Hadley (Chair) **Paper Author:** Gareth Hadley

**Introduction**

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1. This report covers my principal activities since the Council meeting held on **29 July 2015**.

**Stakeholders**

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2. **College of Optometrists:** Together with the Chief Executive and Registrar, I met the President (David Parkins) and Chief Executive (Bryony Pawinska) of the College of Optometrists (**20 October 2015**) for a periodic discussion of current issues. Matters discussed included next steps following the publication of our new standards and the challenges and priorities for both organisations in the coming years.
3. **Bryony Pawinska:** On the Council's behalf, I wrote to Bryony (**3 November 2015**) thanking her for the contribution that she had made to the safe practice of optics during her years at the head of the College of Optometrists and congratulating her on her appointment as Chief Executive of the Federation of Manufacturing Opticians.
4. **Scottish stakeholders:** Together with Scott Mackie, Alistair Bridge and David Rowland, I visited stakeholders in Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen (**8-9 September 2015**). Those with whom we had discussions included:
  - 4.1. management, optometrists and students at Boots Opticians, Princes Street, Edinburgh;
  - 4.2. Dennis Robertson, MSP;
  - 4.3. Janet Pooley (Director) and colleagues including trainees at the Lothian Teach and Treat Clinic, Edinburgh;
  - 4.4. Carrie McEwan, President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists;
  - 4.5. Malcolm and Stephen MacPherson and colleagues at MacPherson Optometry, Aberdeen; and
  - 4.6. ophthalmologists, optometrists, nursing staff and patients at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Eye Clinic.

5. Our wide-ranging discussions included: standards; the changing demands for eyecare and the challenges and opportunities that these provided; the work of eye health networks and the NES Teach and Treat Clinics; and current developments in Scotland.
6. **Other stakeholders:** I have also met with:
  - 6.1. Alan Tinger, Chair of LOCSU (**30 July 2015**);
  - 6.2. David Parkins, President of the College of Optometrists (**6 August 2015**);
  - 6.3. Caroline Corby, recently appointed Chair of the Investigation Committee (**23 September 2015**);
  - 6.4. David Hewlett, Chief Executive of the Federation of Dispensing and Ophthalmic Opticians (**6 October 2015**);
  - 6.5. Chris Hunt, Chair of the Optical Confederation (**15 October 2015**);
  - 6.6. Kevin Thompson, President of the Association of Optometrists (**20 October 2015**); and
  - 6.7. Richard Booth, Chair of the National Optometric Advisers' Association (**23 October 2015**).

### **Council and Committees**

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7. I chaired the Council's strategy day (**30 September 2015**) and attended meetings of the Remuneration Committee (**15 September and 6 October 2015**).
8. Together with Council, Executive and committee member colleagues, I participated in:
  - 8.1. diversity and equality training designed to assist participants in assessment and selection exercises avoid unconscious bias (**14 September 2015**); and
  - 8.2. a workshop to discuss the challenges and opportunities that might be afforded by legislative reform and the possible approaches to securing desired changes to legislation regulating the provision of eyecare services (**5 October 2015**). Feedback from participants was that they welcomed the opportunity that the workshop afforded for them to be involved in policy development at the very early stages and for the problem solving approach taken to embrace the contributions of people able to offer perspectives from widely divergent backgrounds and experiences.

### **Management**

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9. In addition to my regular conversations with the Chief Executive and Registrar, we have had five long bilateral discussions concerning the work and direction of the Council.
10. I chaired the interview panel for appointment of a registrant member of the Council (**16 September 2015**). Other members of the interview panel were Selina Ullah, Paul Carroll, and independent member of the Nominations

Committee Penny Bennett. The Privy Council has confirmed the appointment of the candidate that we recommended for appointment: an announcement will be made on **9 November 2015**.

11. I chaired interview panels for the appointment of a dispensing optician member (**3 November 2015**) and for two optometrist members (**3-4 November 2015**) of the Investigation Committee. Other members of the interview panel were (for the dispensing optician member) Glenn Tomison, chair of the Investigation Committee Caroline Corby, and independent member of the Nominations Committee Penny Bennett, and (for the optometrist members) Helen Tilley, chair of the Investigation Committee Caroline Corby, and independent member of the Nominations Committee Penny Bennett.