

COUNCIL

Report from the Chair of the Council

Meeting: 12 February 2014

Status: for noting

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Introduction

1. This report covers my principal activities since the Council meeting held on **14 November 2013**. Many of these are also covered in the quarterly review (see **paper C14(14)**) to which you should refer for detail and is not repeated here.

Stakeholders

2. ***Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers:*** I met Gordon Jones (Past Master), Edward Middleton (Chair of Education Committee) and John Salmon (Clerk) (**19 November 2013**). We discussed the history of the Company and the contribution that it had made to the development of the optics professions. A major focus of our discussion was on the work that the Company currently undertakes in the delivery of learning, training and National Vocational Qualifications for non-regulated workers within optics.
3. ***Association of Contact Lens Manufacturers:*** I met Simon Rodwell (Secretary General) and Cameron Hudson (ACLM Board Member and Head of Professional Affairs, CIBA Vision UK and Ireland) (**28 November 2013**). We discussed the scope of membership of the ACLM, current policy initiatives, and our engagement with Government on matters of public policy. Of particular interest to the ACLM was our work on illegal practice.
4. ***College of Optometrists:*** Together with the Chief Executive and Registrar, I met Kamlesh Chauhan and Bryony Pawinska (**29 January 2014**). Amongst other matters, our discussion covered: developments concerning the delivery of optometry education in the United Kingdom and the challenges that this presented for the College and the GOC alike; the delivery of CET within the current cycle and emerging trends/expectations to be considered in planned review as the cycle draws to its close in 2016; a College research initiative, jointly with the AOP, into optometry workforce planning; and professionalism.

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Management

5. In addition to my regular conversations with the Chief Executive and Registrar, we have had four long bilateral discussions concerning the work and direction of the Council.
6. I have also had discussions with other members of the Executive. These have covered, amongst other things, policy developments on: illegal practice; diversity, equality and inclusion; and strategic planning.
7. I have begun to develop new arrangements for the performance appraisal of the Chief Executive and Registrar (the arrangements will require to be approved by the Remuneration Committee in due course). My intention is that, amongst other things, they should include a rigorous 360° assessment. I would hope that, in due course, such arrangements might be extended to other senior members of the Executive.

Committees

8. During the course of the next year, it will be my intention to attend (as an observer), one meeting of each of the Council's statutory and non-statutory Committees.