

COUNCIL

Report from the Chair of Council

Meeting: 14 November 2018

Status: for decision

Lead responsibility and paper author: Gareth Hadley (Chair)

Introduction

1. This report covers my principal activities since the Council meeting held on **12 September 2018**.

Recommendation

2. Council is asked to **note** the report and **agree** that:
 - Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC) members no longer being proscribed from being appointed to the Investigation Committee (IC); and
 - from 15 November 2018 until 12 February 2019 (inclusive), Roshni Samra's agreement should not be required for a Council decision by e-mail to be valid due to her being on maternity leave.

Stakeholders

3. **Association of British Dispensing Opticians:** Together with the Director of Strategy, I attended the opening of ABDO's new National Resource Centre in Birmingham (**31 July 2018**). The facility is impressive: designed to accommodate OSCE examinations and CET programmes, it has the capacity to make a major contribution to the optical community's assessment, learning and development. I intend to make a further early visit to observe the Centre in active use.
4. **Northern Ireland Optometric Society:** Together with Sinead Burns, I attended the NIOS annual dinner in Templepatrick (**13 October 2018**). This afforded us an opportunity to discuss current issues with a wide range of registrant stakeholders practising in the Province.
5. **Association of Optometrists Ireland:** Together with Sinead Burns and the interim Chief Executive and Registrar, I attended the AOI annual dinner in Athlone (**3 November 2018**). Again, this afforded us an opportunity to discuss current issues with a wide range of stakeholders.
6. **General Chiropractic Council:** I met Mary Chapman, Chair of the GCC, (**17 October 2018**) to discuss matters of common interest.

7. **Health and Care Professions Council:** I met Stephen Cohen, interim chair of the HCPC, (**17 October 2018**) to discuss matters of common interest. For a part of the discussion, Stephen was accompanied by his Chief Executive and Registrar, Marc Seale.

Council and Committees

8. I participated in the Council's Performance Review Day (**25 September 2018**) and the Strategic Planning Day (**26 September 2018**) and will be participating in the Development Day (**13 November 2018**).
9. I chaired a meeting of the Nominations committee (**1 October 2018**) convened to consider matters that will arise following the first terms of appointment of Council members Rosie Glazebrook and Glenn Tomison drawing to a close on 31 December 2018. The committee's recommendations are set out in a report (SC24(18)) presented in the confidential part of today's agenda.
10. I chaired a routine meeting of the Nominations committee (**10 October 2018**). Nomco recommends to Council that SAC members are no longer proscribed from being appointed to the Investigation Committee(IC. This recommendation is made on the basis that Council agreed that IC members could also sit as SAC members, when the IC's role was diminished by the introduction of case examiners.
11. I also attended meetings of the Remuneration Committee (**25 September 2018**) and the Education Committee (**15 October 2108**).
12. Our Standing Orders provide for Council to make decisions by e-mail in the event that:
- a decision is required outside of the arranged schedule of meetings; and
 - it is not possible to convene a special meeting.
- For any decision by e-mail to be valid it requires all members able to participate (i.e. not conflicted) to agree in writing. Given Roshni Samra's forthcoming maternity leave, it is recommended Council agree that, from 15 November 2018 until 12 February 2019 (inclusive), her agreement should not be required for a decision by e-mail to be valid.

Management

13. **Education Visitors' Panels:** Selections for new members of the Education Visitors' Panels are now under way. I chaired the selection panel for Dispensing Optician members (**6 November 2018**) (other panel members were: Glenn Tomison; Sally Powell, Education Visitors' Panel chair; and Chris Dearsley, independent assessor) and am chairing the panel for EVP chairs (**9 and 12 November 2018**) (other panel members are: Sally Powell, Education Visitors' Panel chair; and Chris Dearsley, independent assessor). The

selection panel for Optometrist members (**15 and 16 November 2018**) is being chaired by Rosie Glazebrook (other panel members are: Josie Forte; Sally Powell, Education Visitors' Panel chair; and Chris Dearsley, independent assessor).

14. Together with Clare Minchington, I will be attending an all staff meeting (**11 November 2018**) to discuss lessons learned from the Internal Audit review of the discontinued organisation restructuring project *Project Maclean*.
15. I have completed Council members' performance review discussions.
16. In addition to my regular conversations with the Chief Executive and Registrar and with members of the Senior Management Team, I have had two long bilateral discussions with the Interim Chief Executive and Registrar concerning the work and direction of the Council.

Investment Management

17. The Council members of ARC, together with the Director of Resources, met with representatives of our investment manager, Brewin Dolphin, on 1 November 2018. They noted:
 - an overall market review;
 - a review of the performance of the GOC's portfolio; and
 - market prospects.
18. As regards the GOC's portfolio, the following key points were noted:
 - in the year to 30 September 2018 the value of the portfolio increased from £10,004k to £10,460k. At 1 November 2018 it had dropped to approximately £9,950k in line with market conditions;
 - the total return for the year to 30 September 2018 (including £293,555 income paid out) was 8.4%, which compared favourably with a benchmark index of 7.0%;
 - the asset allocation benchmarking follows the GOC's moderate risk appetite outlined to Brewin Dolphin when the investments were first made. The portfolio is currently allocated below the benchmark in terms of UK gilts, in which Brewin Dolphin see little value, and above the benchmark in terms of overseas equities and cash;
 - the GOC is slightly unusual as a charity investor in terms of the high level of cash required;
 - Brewin Dolphin aim to sell investments in tranches to meet our cash requirements, of which they have so far received adequate notice; and
 - there is limited scope for Brewin Dolphin to generate significant income from registrant fees between the time they are received in the spring and the time the money is spent, but they will explore any possibilities.