

COUNCIL

Report from the Chair of Council

Meeting: 15 May 2019

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 **13 February 2019**.

Recommendation

2. Council are asked to:
 - 2.1. **note** the contents of this report; and
 - 2.2. **agree** to extend the decision that due to maternity leave, Roshni Samra's agreement for a decision required via email is not required until 12 November 2019 (inclusive).

Stakeholders

3. **Association of British Dispensing Opticians:** I have had discussions with registrant dispensing optician Barry Duncan (ABDO Deputy Chief Executive) (**16 April 2019**), registrant dispensing optician Fiona Anderson (ABDO immediate past president) (**18 April 2019**), and registrant dispensing optician Clive Marchant (ABDO President) (**24 April 2019**). Although our discussions covered a wide range of matters of common interest, their primary focus was the Education Strategic Review.
4. **Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians:** I met Harjit Sandhu (FODO Managing Director) and David Hewlett (FODO Director for Leadership, Transformation and Strategic Partnerships) on **14 March 2019** to discuss current issues.
5. **Optometry Wales:** Together with the Chief Executive and Registrar, I attended Optometry Wales' annual dinner on **23 March 2019**. This afforded me the opportunity to discuss current issues with numbers of stakeholders (including registrants, senior academics, and opinion formers).
6. **Cameron Optometry:** I visited registrant optometrist Ian Cameron at his practice premises in Edinburgh on **16 April 2019**.
7. On **14 May 2019**, both the Chief Executive and Registrar and I will be participating in discussions with the chairs and chief executives of all nine UK healthcare professional regulators. I will provide a brief oral report at our meeting.

Council and Committees

8. I chaired a meeting of the Nominations Committee (**20 March 2019**) and attended meetings of the Education Committee (**30 April 2019**) and Remuneration committee (**3 May 2019**).

Management

9. Together with Helen Tilley, I met Roshni Samra (**5 March 2019**) to brief her on Council business arising during the course of her maternity absence to date. Aside from the briefing that we gave Roshni, Helen and I were both really pleased to make acquaintance with her baby boy. We continue to keep in touch with Roshni and she will be returning from maternity leave later in the year. In November 2018, Council will recall a decision that Roshni's agreement for a decision by e-mail¹ would not be required from 15 November 2018 until 12 February 2019 (inclusive). Council are asked to extend this decision until 12 November 2019.
10. I participated in one of the Chief Executive and Registrar's *meet the team* sessions (**15 April 2019**). I was encouraged by our colleagues' lively discussion about the Council's future direction and management. Council members will have attended other such sessions.
11. I had a constructive conversation with Derek Hooper (**15 April 2019**), the consultant engaged in the GOC Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) review which is seeking to assist us in aligning with our EDI strategy and ensure that in exercising all of our functions we operate in a fair and transparent manner and in a way that is free from discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
12. In addition to my regular conversations with the Chief Executive and Registrar and with members of the Senior Management Team and the Leadership Team, I have had three long bilateral discussions with the Chief Executive and Registrar concerning the work and direction of the Council.
13. I chaired an Appointments Panel convened to make a recommendation to the Privy Council for appointment of a lay member to succeed Selina Ullah who demits following completion of her second term as a Council member on 31 August 2019. Other members of the Panel were Sinead Burns, Josie Forte, and independent member Chris Dearsley. The Panel selected 11 candidates for interview from amongst the 153 that applied. Interviews were held on **1 and 2 May 2019**; the panel reconvened on **3 May 2019** to finalise their recommendation. Following the established procedure, the recommendation will be sent to the Privy Council via the Professional Standards Authority in early course.

¹ Council's Standing Orders require all members to agree to a decision via email where i) a decision is required outside of the arranged schedule of meetings or ii) it is not possible to convene a special meeting.