

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 176TH MEETING: FOR INFORMATION**

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**Minute 6704: The General Optical Council Constitution Order 2009**

1. was laid before Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The Department of Health made no changes to the Order following the consultation and therefore the Order will not stipulate the number of optometrists and number of dispensing opticians to be appointed.

**Minute 6705: CHRE Performance Review.**

2. The 2008/09 Review is now well advanced. The Executive submitted the GOC's self assessment against the CHRE standards by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 and then received a request from CHRE for substantial further information. It is understood that this year all other regulators similarly received requests for further information. The GOC submitted further information as requested by 9 March 2009 prior to the review meeting with CHRE officers on 12 March held at 41 Harley Street. Present at the meeting were Dr Geoff Harris, Mrs Dian Taylor; Mr Jon Levett; Ms Kate Fielding, Ms Linda Kennaugh and Ms Kisha Punchihewa. Ms Lesa Oakley was not able to attend due to sickness. The CHRE's initial draft response will be received by the GOC by end of April 09 for factual correction and the substantive report will be presented to Parliament before the summer recess in July 2009.

**Minute 6706: the Education Committee Working Group's proposals on greater patient and public involvement in our statutory education visits will be taken to March 2009 Council.**

3. Having reviewed its visit process the GOC has recently developed an annual monitoring scheme for training establishments. This will allow annual reporting of progress, change and statistics to enable the GOC to monitor trends. By receiving these forms on an annual basis it enables the visit itself to be shorter and more focused.
4. The new process requires each institution to submit a monitoring form on an annual basis in which they must provide details of progress against the conditions and recommendations of the previous visit, notification of any changes (or proposed changes) to the programme structure, content, assessment methods etc or to staffing and resourcing, student progression and achievement data and clinical records.

5. This will allow the quinquennial visits to be much more focused on the areas of risk, on clinical patient experience and areas identified for improvement or change. The visits themselves will be reduced from 4 to 2 days. The annual monitoring forms for the years proceeding a visit will be used as pre-visit information for the Panel, together with additional feedback collected from employers, supervisors and patients via questionnaires which will be sent to these groups in advance of a visit and the responses will be collated into a meaningful report to assist the Panel.
6. This new scheme is being piloted in February 2009 with full roll out to all Optometry programmes planned for autumn 2009. Roll out will then be extended to dispensing programmes in early 2010 following full Panel visits to all dispensing courses in 2009.
7. A review is currently underway to consider how patients' perspectives can be captured.
8. It is proposed to develop a short questionnaire that patients in University clinics can be asked to complete. An analysis of these questionnaires will be included in the annual monitoring submission. Also future visit programmes will include an opportunity to meet with a small group of patients. Also one member of each Visitor Panel will be asked to focus on the patient's perspective during the Visit.

**Minute 6721: Staggered and Tiered Fees**

9. The Executive has carried out initial research into the fees structure used by other regulators. The GOC has also received initial advice on the changes to the Rules needed to give effect to staggered and tiered fees.

**Minute 6734: Committee Constitution Rules**

10. Council is asked to note that the Committee Constitution Rules were approved by the Privy Council on 1 December 2008. The provisions relating to the FTP Committee and Registration Appeals Committee came into force on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009. All other provisions come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009.

Dian Taylor  
March 2009