

Dental Council - 2016 Annual Report

Report of Proceedings

This report is prepared in accordance with Section 57 of the Dentists Act, 1985 and sets out a report of the Dental Council's activity during 2016.

1. Consideration of Fitness to Practise Reports

The reports of inquires held by the council's Fitness to Practise Committee must be submitted to the council who have the authority to apply a sanction if it is deemed appropriate. The council considered the following reports and decided to:

- Censure a dentist found guilty of professional misconduct
- Admonish a dentist in relation to his professional conduct where findings of fact were established at an inquiry but where the dentist was found not guilty of professional misconduct

The council upheld the decision that that there was no prima facie evidence in five applications for inquiry into the fitness to practise of registered dentists. The council also continued to monitor undertakings given to it relating to a dentist with addiction issues.

2. Consideration of applications for registration

Under Sections 30 and 32 of the Dentists Act, 1985 the Dental Council may refuse to register a dentist or restore a dentist's name to the register on the grounds that they are unfit to practice dentistry in Ireland. The council considered the following applications:

- A dentist who it was alleged previously practiced in Ireland while not registered sought registration with the council. The council requested further information from the applicant which was not forthcoming and his application was refused.
- A student who had personal issues during her training. The council was satisfied that the matters had been addressed and it decided to register her.
- An auxiliary dental worker who had been convicted of an offense triable on indictment. The council decided to register him after he gave specific undertakings to allow the council monitor his practise.

Under Section 33 of the Dentists Act, 1985 the Dental Council may correct errors on the register of dentists. The council considered a case where:

- A dentist was inadvertently moved from the temporary register to the register of dentists and it agreed to correct this dentist's registration status.

3. Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry

The work in moving the administration structure supporting the Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry from the Royal College of Surgeons to the Dental Council was completed in early 2016. The Dental Council approved the following specialist training programmes:

- Orthodontic programme in Cork University Dental School and Hospital

As at end of 2016, the following training programmes continue to be approved by the Dental Council:

- D.Ch.Dent. in Oral Surgery – University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Ch.Dent. in Orthodontics – University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Ch.Dent. in Periodontics – University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Ch.Dent. in Paediatric Dentistry - University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Ch.Dent. in Prosthodontics - University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Ch.Dent. in Special Care Dentistry – University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Ch.Dent. in Oral Medicine – University of Dublin (Trinity College Dublin)
- D.Clin.Dent in Oral Surgery - National University of Ireland, Cork
- D.Clin.Dent in Orthodontics - National University of Ireland, Cork

4. Auxiliary Dental Workers

The council continued to express its concerns about the proposal to effectively deregulate auxiliary dental workers who are in supervised practice. The council sought a meeting with the Minister for Health to discuss the matter.

The council held its accreditation visits to the five dental nursing and dental hygiene programmes in both Dublin Dental University Hospital and Cork University Dental School and Hospital in October. The reports will be considered by council in 2017.

5. Other matters

The Dental Council appointed Mr Paul Lyons as Education Manager in October 2016.

Reporting Requirements under Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

1. Agreement with Department of Health regarding compliance with the code

The council has submitted signed its statement of compliance with the department and is finalising its performance delivery agreement. The new code is very onerous on small organisations. The main deviation from the code concerns risk management and internal audit. At present, the council's Finance and General Purposes Committee oversees these roles but the council will be considering the most appropriate way meet its obligations. The members of this committee are the president, vice-president, the chairs of the three statutory committees and a member at large nominated by the council.

2. Annual Budget

The council prepares an annual budget and its management accounts are regularly reviewed by both the Finance and General Purposes Committee and council.

3. Responsibility for preparing the financial statements

The council confirms that it is responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements, and whether it considers the statement to be a true and fair view of the council's financial position.

4. Evaluation of Board Performance

This is a new requirement and the council intends to put a formal evaluation process in place in 2018.

5. Statement of Operations

The council has adopted a set of delegated authorities to operationalise its responsibilities under the Dentists Act, 1985. The council has three statutory committees and each reports to the council on its activities. All decisions are made by the council unless responsibility has been expressly delegated under the Dentists Act or the approved delegated authority. The registrar of the council is responsible for the day-to-day work of the office and for implementing council and committee decisions.

6. Risk and Audit Committee

At present, responsibility for risk and audit rests with the Finance and General Purposes Committee. This committee meets eight times a year. The council will be considering the most appropriate way to manage the risk and audit requirements under the new code of practice in 2017 and will implement this in 2018.

7. Names of council and committee members

The names of the council members and the committees they sit on are below.

8. Attendance at meetings

The number meetings each member attended and the number of meetings they were scheduled to attend is listed below.

9. Submission of Annual Report

The council endeavours to comply with the requirement to submit its audited accounts and annual report within 4 months of the year end, but this is subject to when its statutory audit is completed.

10. Risks

At present, the executive maintains a high-level risk register and the responsibility for risk and audit rests with the Finance and General Purposes Committee. This committee meets eight times a year. The council will be considering the most appropriate way to manage the risk and audit requirements under the new code of practice in 2017 and will implement this in 2018.

11. Public Spending Code

The council complies with the relevant aspects of the Public Spending Code.

12. Statement of Internal Control

The statement of internal control is enclosed below.

Board Membership and Attendance

Name	Elected/Nominated by	Coun	F&GP	FTP	Ed&T	Aux	STAR	CPD
Dr Gerard McCarthy (President)	Elected	4/4	6/6		4/4	4/4		6/6
Prof Leo Stassen (Vice President)	Elected	4/5	4/6		3/4	3/4	1/1	
Dr Francis Burke (Chair Education)	UCC	4/4	5/6		4/4	4/4	1/1	6/6
Dr Bernard Murphy (Chair FTP)	Elected	5/5	5/6	4/4		4/4		
Dr Rory Fleming (Chair Auxiliary)	Elected	5/5	6/6	5/5	4/4	4/4		6/6
Dr Liam Lynch	Elected	5/5		5/5				
Dr Ray McCarthy	Elected	4/5		4/5		3/4		
Dr Danielle Colbert	Elected	5/5		5/5	4/4	4/4		6/6
Prof Brian O'Connell	Trinity College	4/5			2/4			
Dr Claire Healy	Trinity College	5/5			4/4		1/1	
Prof Martin Kinirons	UCC	4/5			3/4		1/1	
Dr Gerry Cleary	RCSI	5/5	5/6		4/4	4/4	1/1	
Dr John Barragry	Medical Council	4/5						
Mr Declan Carey	Medical Council	4/5		1/5				
Dr Eleanor O'Higgins	Minister for Health	5/5		5/5				
Ms Muireann O'Neill	Minister for Health	3/5						
Ms Marie Henson	Minister for Health	3/4		2/5				
Mr James Doorley	Minister for Health	4/5		4/5				
Mr Bryan Maguire	Minister for Education	4/5			4/4	4/4		
Dr Thérèse Garvey	Co-opted						1/1	
Dr Michael O'Sullivan	Chair of ICSTD				1/2			
Dr Ioannis Polyzois	Other nominee of ICSTD				2/2			
Dr Gary Leonard	Chair Oral Surgery AC						0/0	
Dr Ebrahim Al-Awadhi	Chair Orthodontist AC						1/1	
Ms Michelle Spearman-Geraghty	DN Rep - Elected					3/4		
Ms Yvonne Howell	DH Rep - Elected					3/4		
Ms Annemarie Connolly	Orth Therap - Elected					2/2		
Mc Colum Sower	CDT Rep - Elected					4/4		

The attendance figures above show the numbers of meetings attended and number of meetings which the member was entitled to attend.

Notes

Coun - Dental Council

F&GP - Finance and General Purposes Committee

Ed&T - Education and Training Committee

Aux - Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee

STAR - Specialist Training and Registration Committee

CPD - Continued Professional Development Committee

Statement of Internal Controls

The president of the Dental Council acknowledges that the council is responsible for the Dental Council's system of internal control. This system can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material error. The key control procedures the council has put in place are described below and are tailored to reflect the size and complexity of the organisation.

1. A statement in relation to when the annual review of the effectiveness of control was conducted or where such a review was not conducted, a statement that it was not conducted.
2. Disclosure of details regarding instances where breaches in control occurred – such breaches might include non-compliance with procurement rules or instances where other elements of the control system (e.g. internal audit, Audit and Risk Committee or other committees) were not operational.
3. Disclosure of details of any material losses or frauds.
4. Statement on System of Internal Controls is to be reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board to ensure it accurately reflects the control system in operation during the reporting period.
5. Statement on System of Internal Controls is to be reviewed by the external auditors to confirm that it reflects the audited body's compliance with the requirements of paragraph 1.9 (iv) and is consistent with the information of which they are aware from their audit work on the financial statements and where this is not the case, the external auditor should report on this in the audit report on the relevant financial statement.
6. the steps taken to ensure an appropriate control environment (such as clearly defined management responsibilities);
7. processes used to identify business risks and to evaluate their financial implications;
8. details of the major information systems in place such as budgets, and means of comparing actual results with budgets during the year;
9. the procedures for addressing the financial implications of major business risks (such as financial instructions and notes of procedures, delegation practices such as authorisation limits, segregation of duties and methods of preventing and detecting fraud); and
10. the procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the internal control system which may include: Audit and Risk Committees, management reviews, consultancy, inspection and review studies, the work of internal audit, quality audit reviews and statements from the heads of internal audit.

I confirm that there has been a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control. No weaknesses in internal control that have resulted in material losses, contingencies or uncertainties which require disclosure in the financial statements or the auditor's report on the financial statements.

I confirm that the Dental Council is in compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines as set out by the Office of Government Procurement.