

Serving on Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI

The Pharmaceutical Society NI is the statutory regulator of pharmacy in Northern Ireland. We are established under the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 which has been updated by the Pharmacy (1976 Order) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012 and the supporting regulations.

What does the Council do?

The 14 members of Council, 7 pharmacists and 7 lay, collectively set the strategy and oversee the activities of the pharmacy regulator. As the Regulator, the Society is responsible for the registration and regulation of individual pharmacists and pharmacy premises.

Over the next year, among many other things, Council members will oversee a public consultation process and delivery of new outcome-based standards for registered pharmacies, establish new arrangements to allow a defence against criminal prosecution for a dispensing error, publish more modern and fit for purpose standards for Superintendent and Responsible Pharmacists, oversee new arrangements for supervision in the assembly, sale and supply of medicines, and develop proposals for the statutory registration of pharmacy technicians.

In addition the Council will oversee arrangements for providing and accepting the newly proposed “professional passport”, improving free movement of pharmacists in Europe by recognition of qualification and the introduction of language testing for holders. Looking further into the future, work has commenced on continuing fitness to practise, the next stage in the development of CPD, which will take a number of years to conclude, in consultation with the public and pharmacists.

There has never been a more exciting and important time to be involved in this work, helping to shape the next stages of development in the pharmacy profession.

If you are passionate about clinical excellence, innovation, patient safety and the reputation of pharmacy; if you would like to make an important contribution to the good governance and leadership of pharmacy regulation; If you would like to share and develop your experience and skills, you should seriously consider applying to become a member of Council in the next appointments process due to be launched in February 2016. The Council needs pharmacists (as well as lay people) to fill current vacancies.

What commitment is involved in being a Council member?

Council meets approximately 7 times per year for half a day. Council members may also be asked to serve on a committee of Council. These committees meet on average 6 times per year, again for half a day. The total commitment can amount therefore to between 12 and 15 half day sessions, equivalent to between 6 and 8 full days. Council members are however remunerated for their time commitment as follows:

Position	Meetings up to 4 hours duration	Meetings over 4 hours duration	Training and Induction days (any length)
Council member	£118	£235	£118
Chair of a Committee (when chairing committee meeting)	£143	£285	£118
Committee member	£118	£235	£118

Council members are also eligible to claim expenses for costs necessarily incurred. To find out more why not attend the event on 8 March at 7pm in Society House and meet serving members of Council who will share their experiences with you. Please register for this event at: <http://www.psni.org.uk/events/>

Concerned that you may not have the skills or be able to navigate through the application?

Most pharmacists already have the skills to perform this governance role. You may or may not have served as a board member of an organisation, but an understanding of business operations and resource management, awareness of what good corporate governance is, ability to engage effectively with a range of stakeholders, including the public, and good self-awareness are the qualities that are needed.

The **Pharmacy Forum NI** is also running an event on the 8 March at 8pm; 'Preparation of pharmacists for Public Appointments' that may assist those pharmacists who wish to apply for Council membership in presenting their skills and abilities effectively in order that they can apply for public appointments like these with confidence and, if successful, bring an essential pharmacy perspective to high level decision making and planning by the regulator.

You can find more information at; <http://forum.psni.org.uk/whats-happening/training-events/>

When is the next recruitment exercise due?

There are a number of current vacancies on the Council and a further number of members terms of office are due to end in 2016. The positions will be advertised in the local newspapers and you will find details of the posts and application forms on <https://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/dhssps-public-appointments>

Email: public.appointments@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9076 5606

Closing date for receipt of applications is **12:00 noon on Friday 18th March 2016.**

What do Council members say about the role?

Jim Livingstone, the current President of PSNI says *“The partnership between lay people like myself and pharmacists on Council is a critical component of good governance. The pharmacist members bring a wide knowledge of the profession of pharmacy and many other skills that ensures decision making is well-informed and effective. Working on Council not only contributes to the strategic effectiveness and good governance of Council, it also provides a fantastic opportunity for individuals to develop their skills in ways often not otherwise available”*

Professor David Jones, Pro-Vice Chancellor at Queens University and a current Registrant member says *“Being a registrant member of the PSNI will enable you to positively affect the Pharmacy Profession and to ensure that the Profession in Northern Ireland is vibrant, modern and is capable of offering high quality care to public. It is your chance to give something back to our Profession and to secure the future of the Society for future generations.”*

Gareth Peeples, Hospital pharmacist and Council member since 2014 says *“Whilst initially excited about my appointment, I was quite nervous about becoming a part of the Council. However, with the training provided and the support of the other members and staff, I soon became confident in my role and over time have become a very active contributor to the business of both Council and its committees. If you want to do something new, gain new skills and help shape the regulation of Pharmacy in Northern Ireland, then apply for the role of Council Member - you won't regret it.”*

Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland, 73 University Street, Belfast,
BT7 1HL

Tel: 028 9032 6927

www.psni.org