

## Welcome to Update



Welcome to the second edition of our regulatory update in 2021.

In this edition, we bring you our response to Department of Health and Social Care consultation, Regulating Healthcare Professionals, Protecting the Public.

We highlight a vacancy for the Pharmaceutical Society NI's Head of Investigation, Education and Registration, (Maternity Leave cover)

We give an update on the decisions of the Council on Education reform and the Scrutiny Committee's annual report.

We thank university staff and trainees for making the recent assessment examination possible.

Lastly, we highlight some news items you may have missed.

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### Review previous editions

You can read previous editions of our Regulatory Update [here](#)

### Follow us on Facebook

You can also keep up-to-date with all regulatory news by following us on [Facebook](#)

## Our response to the consultation on ‘Regulating healthcare professionals, protecting the public’

The Department of Health and Social Care published a consultation in March 2021, [Regulating healthcare professionals, protecting the public](#), describing it as an opportunity for stakeholders to influence the way in which the regulation of healthcare professionals can be made more flexible, agile and fit to protect the public into the future.

As reported in our website [news items](#), Mr Trevor Patterson, Chief Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society NI welcomed the consultation commented that

*“This consultation provides an opportunity to shape the reform of the regulation of healthcare professionals to make it better suited to a more diverse and evolving healthcare system and to keep protection of the public at the forefront.*

*“At present, significant parts of the healthcare regulators’ legislation are out of date and unhelpfully rigid. The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of being able to work quickly and flexibly with local, informed partners to deliver for patient safety.*

*“The Pharmaceutical Society NI will be giving the detailed proposals careful consideration before making a response. We encourage all pharmacists and stakeholder groups to do the same as the outcome of this consultation will likely reform the way pharmacists are regulated in Northern Ireland in the future”.*

Following careful consideration, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI has given a detailed response to the consultation which can be found [here](#).

### Newsletter Feedback

As always, we would welcome your feedback on this Newsletter to make it as effective as possible. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact

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## Vacancy - Head of Investigation, Education and Registration, (Maternity Leave cover)

Due to a temporary reorganisation to facilitate maternity cover from July 2021 until, nominally, 01 July 2022, we have an exciting opportunity for a pharmacist. The role will be temporary full-time with a hybrid working arrangement i.e. part home and part office based.

The successful candidate will join the pharmacy regulator at an exciting time for pharmacy as the profession develops rapidly. Responsible for the day-to-day management of registration and investigation activities, the Head of IER will oversee the running and rapid development of the undergraduate, pre-registration and post-graduate education agenda on behalf of the CEO and Interim Registrar (CEOR).

We anticipate that technician registration development work, which is currently awaiting final ministerial decision on commencement, will commence soon and the legislative reform and structures necessary to introduce this will be overseen by the Head of IER.

For further details, please refer to the full [job description](#) and [competency framework](#).

If you would like to have an informal discussion about the role, please contact us via this [info@psni.org.uk](mailto:info@psni.org.uk) or call **028903 26927** to request a call-back.

The role offers a competitive salary, generous holiday entitlement, private medical insurance and pension contributions.

Applications by cv will not be accepted; please download the [application form](#) for completion.

**Applications close at 17:00 on 21 July 2021.**

## Thank you

Following the successful completion of the pharmacy registration assessment examination on 8 June 2021, Dr Jim Livingstone, President and Trevor Patterson, Chief Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society NI, have expressed their gratitude for the assistance of the Pharmacy Departments and staff at the University of Ulster in Jordanstown and Coleraine. Both organisations provided facilities and support to hold the examination under socially distanced requirements. They also expressed their gratitude to the trainees who took part in the examination for their understanding and compliance with the necessary COVID-19 restrictions.

## Key Council Decisions

All our Public Council meetings take place in public and are normally held in our offices at 73 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HL. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and until further notice, Council meetings are being held remotely via Zoom.

Should you wish to attend, including via Zoom, please contact the Council Secretary, June Alexander (june.alexander@psni.org.uk), at least one working day in advance of the meeting advising of your attendance and stating any particular access requirements you may have.

A list of upcoming Council meetings can be found [here](#). The next Public Council meeting will take place on 16 September 2021 via Zoom commencing at 09:30 am.

Approved Council Minutes can be found [here](#).

Please note all Public Council meetings are open to the public except in exceptional circumstances.

### **Key Council Decisions from the 15 March 2021**

#### **Scrutiny Committee**

Council approved the Scrutiny Committee annual report and comments from the Scrutiny Committee which can be read [here](#) with Appendix 3 [here](#)

#### **Pharmacy Technician registration**

Council was informed in relation to Pharmacy Technician registration, at the last DoH meeting, the Department's view was that there was a need to register Pharmacy Technicians as set out in the workforce review report. Council had approved the release of funding and specialist consultants are drafting a schedule and mapping what might need to change to facilitate registration. A meeting was scheduled with the CPO later in March to discuss the Department's view on how this might best progress – Ministerial approval permitting. Research will be required in relation to a consistent entry regime. Work was progressing in the background but work with the Department on some policy matters would be required first.

## Key Council Decisions

### CPD

Council agreed that the implementation of the new CPD Framework will begin in June 2021.

The full approved minutes of the 15 March 2021 including updates on educational reform, CPD, the President's report can be accessed [here](#).

### Key Council Decisions from the 11 May 2021

#### Educational Reform Update

1. Council reaffirmed its approval of the Foundation Training Year as proposed by NICPLD as a course of pre-registration training;
2. Council approved the Memorandum of Understanding between PSNI and NICPLD; which sets out the setting out the process for PSNI and NICPLD working together, co-operating and data sharing.

Council was advised that the Department of Health (NI) had asked that the organisation chair an Implementation Group for Education Reform. There is an implementation group in each jurisdiction and all are trying to move at the same pace. The HPA advised that communications continue with GB universities to keep them informed of our path of travel

3. Council approved the transition plan for the Foundation Training Year.

The CEO introduced a paper by the two Schools of Pharmacy in Northern Ireland which addresses a continuum of training. It discusses what they plan to do and by when to introduce changes to the MPharm course in order that trainees will leave the FTY as prescribers. This will take a number of years and co-ordination will be required to ensure that transition from university to FTY is smooth each year until full establishment.

Responsibilities will change each year as the programme develops. For example, Year 1 is a hybrid year involving both PSNI and NICPLD in aspects of course operation and, in Year 2, PSNI will provide only quality assurance of their programme. This year, quality assurance methodology is the same as for the pre-registration programme. The IET4 paper also set out the significant changes in Year 1.

## Key Council Decisions

Supervised Learning Events (SLEs) will be piloted with the Educational up-skilled Supervisors and the current group of students. Next year, all tutors will be fully as Educational Supervisors.

The CEO confirmed that there is general support particularly from the profession. For the universities, there are issues around funding, clinical placements, etc. One of the ambitions of this programme is that there will be multi-sector placements, further work is ongoing around how and when this will be delivered. The aim is to eventually produce trainees who will be fully equipped to be Day 1 pharmacists and prescribers. There will be a need to consider development of the legacy workforce with different qualifications and training experiences as the profession develops. Part of this will be delivered through accredited NICPLD and QUB IP courses for these pharmacists.

### **Educational Reform (Cross Border working)**

In response to a question about pharmacists' cross-border working, the Registrar advised that ROI do not have independent prescribers and there is no move to introduce the training in ROI. Therefore, NI trained pharmacists working in ROI will unlikely be able to use their IP skills. Mutual recognition of qualifications continues to be considered for the future but may be affected by any requirement for NI pharmacists to be IP qualified.

### **Registration Assessment**

The Council was informed that the original plan was that the first Common Registration Assessment (CRA) would be conducted in June this year. Unfortunately, Pearson Vue have run into capacity-based difficulties associated with the pandemic and therefore the CRA would be delayed to the end of July 2021. This would have delayed registration of NI new pharmacists coming into the workforce until September 2021. In negotiation with Pearson Vue, and with Council approval, it was decided to bring forward a NI bespoke registration assessment to June 2021. The CEO advised that GPhC have been very helpful in the development of this assessment.

The Registrar advised that Council had approved the move to a paper based examination in January 2021. In terms of quality assurance, the Examination Committee has been reformed and are supported by the services of the CRA quality assurance contractor, Alpha+.

## Key Council Decisions

As the NI registration assessment differs from the CRA it requires different procedures, which must be approved by Council. Council approved the registration assessment and the associated procedures, to be held on 08 June 2021, based on the quality assurance processes in place as set out .

The full approved minutes including decisions on Pharmaceutical Society NI's IT policy, the yearly budget, financial reserves and the DHSC Consultation can be accessed [here](#).

## News you may have missed

### **New CPD Framework**

The new CPD Framework was launched on 01 June 2021 and articulates the standards and rules governing the CPD process from CPD Year 2021/22 onward. Details can be accessed [here](#).

Registrants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new Framework and the requirements for CPD cycles and portfolios moving forward.

### **COVID-19 Communication Survey**

Thank you to the 409 Registrants, Temporary Registrants and Trainees who completed the COVID-19 communications survey.

The results are being analysed and following presentation to Council will be published in the Autumn with an action plan to implement the agreed improvements.

### **Introducing reforms to the initial education and training of pharmacists – what to expect in 2021/22**

**18 March 2021** – [Letter to Tutors/Educational Supervisors from the NI Centre for Pharmacy Development and Learning and the Pharmaceutical Society NI](#)

**22 April 2021** – [Update letter to 4th year MPharm students from the NI Centre for Pharmacy Development and Learning](#).

### **Duty of Candour & Being Open - Policy Proposals for Consultation**

This Department of Health consultation closes on the 2 August 2021 and can be accessed [here](#). The Pharmaceutical Society NI will be responding to this important consultation and would encourage all pharmacists and stakeholder groups to consider responding to the consultation.