

At the 14 May 2002 meeting the standing orders for Council were agreed. Since that date it has been suggested that SO 11 and SO 48 may be unworkable.

Standing Order 11 states:

The quorum at any meeting of the Council shall consist of not less than 50% of members of which at least 51% shall be registrant/practitioner members and at least 49% shall be lay members.

On the advice of the HPC lawyer it is suggested that SO 11 should read as follows:

The quorum at any meeting of the Council shall not be less than half the members of the Council for the time being and of the members which constitute that quorum the number of registrant/practitioner members shall not exceed the number of lay members by more than one. (i.e. based on current numbers the quorum would be 13 members, 7 lay/practitioner and 6 lay members).

Standing Order 48 states:

A member of the Council shall be appointed to be the Chairman of any committee or sub-committee established by the Council.

It has been suggested that this would impose too high a burden on Council members. The HPC lawyer has suggested that the reference to sub-committees should be deleted and that SO 48 should read as follows:

A member of the Council shall be appointed to be the Chairman of any committee established by the Council.

In addition the HPC lawyers has suggested an amendment to SO 46

Standing Order 46 states:

Any Standing Order (other than one prescribed by the 20001 Order) may be suspended at a meeting with the consent of the Council.

The lawyer has advised that in order to ensure that the Council has the ability to deal with problems relating to the standing orders in the future SO 46 should be amended by the deletion of the words 'at a meeting' to make it clear that Council can waive a non-statutory standing order if it wishes. Standing Order 46 should therefore read as follows:

Any Standing Order (other than one prescribed by the 2001Order) may be suspended with the consent of the Council.

The Council is asked to approve the changes to Standing Orders 11, 46 and 48.

NO'S
30/05/02

