

**Health Professions Council
2 March 2005**

AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

At the Council meeting on 7th December 2004 the Council approved a Code of Conduct for Health Professions Council members. In the light of that Code of Conduct, the Council is asked to approve changes to the Standing Orders.

The proposed changes will mean that the documents do not duplicate each other, support each other's functions, and will ensure that keeping to the Code of Conduct is an integral part of a Council member's role.

Decision

The Council is asked to agree the proposed changes to the Standing Orders.
See attached sheets.

Background information

None.

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Background papers

For reference, Council members can see the Code of Conduct online here:

<http://www.hpc-uk.org/council/docs/20041207/enclosure13i.pdf>

Appendices

The current version of Health Professions Council standing orders are attached to this paper for reference.

Date of Paper

17 February 2005

Proposed amendments

Each proposed amendment is dealt with separately. Additions to the current text are marked by underlining.

Amendment 1

Page 3 – Paragraph 27.

Amended text:

‘27. A member must speak to the subject under discussion. The President may call attention to any irrelevance, repetition, unbecoming language, breach of order, or breach of the Council Members’ Code of Conduct on the part of a member and, where the member persists in that conduct, may direct that member to cease speaking.’

Reason for amendment:

If a Council member were to speak in a meeting in a way that was in breach of the Council Members’ Code of Conduct, the President would wish to draw the members’ attention to this breach. This is also consistent with the Code of Conduct, page 8:

‘If any member is in breach of this code of conduct
Any minor breach of this code of conduct will be dealt with in the first instance informally, for example by the Chairman of a committee or another Council member drawing the breach to the Council member’s attention during a meeting or similar.’

Amendment 2

Page 5 – Paragraph 39.

Amended text:

‘39. Where any information or allegation comes to the attention of the Council that a member may be in breach of Paragraph 9(2) of schedule 1 to the 2001 Order (which sets out the grounds for removing a member of Council from office) or that the Council member may have committed a deliberate, serious or continued breach of the Code of Conduct, the Council shall instruct the Registrar to send a notice to that member:...

Reason for amendment:

The Health Professions Order sets out specific circumstances which may lead to a Council member being removed from office which include, for example, a registrant member of Council ceasing to be registered.

In addition, paragraph 9 (2) g) of the Health Professions Order says that a Council member may be removed from office if ‘such other circumstances as may be provided for by the Council in standing orders occur.’

Making this addition to the Standing Orders effectively means that if a Council member is in breach of the Council Members’ Code of Conduct, their position on the Council can be considered, and the Council can decide to remove them from office if appropriate.

Amendment 3

Date
2005-01-18

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COM

Doc Type
AGD

Title
Council paper - Changes to
Standing Orders

Status
Final
DD: None

Int. Aud.
Public
RD: None

Page 8

Amended text: remove the Seven Principles of Public Life from the Council Standing Orders.

Reason for amendment:

The Seven Principles of Public Life are a core part of the Council Members Code of Conduct, and the nature of the principles means that they sit more appropriately in this document than in the standing orders. Removing them from the Standing Orders means that Council Members are still required to keep to them, but removes un-necessary and potentially confusing duplication.