

Council, 29 June 2015

Appointment of the Assessment and Selection Panel for the Recruitment of a Council member

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

1. The Secretariat function is responsible for managing the process of appointing new Council members including the Chair; reappointing members; suspending or removing a Council member; and making emergency appointments. This has to be in line with the requirements of relevant legislation including the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 and the Health and Care Professions Council (Constitution) Order 2009.
2. The HCPC makes recommendations to the Privy Council for appointment. The appointment is made by the Privy Council. The process is overseen by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) which advises the Privy Council as to whether it is satisfied about the process the regulatory body has followed.
3. Between January and June of this year, a recruitment exercise was undertaken to appoint a Chair since Dr Anna van der Gaag's appointment was due to come to an end on 30 June 2015. The successful candidate was Elaine Buckley, a current Council member. We therefore need to initiate a recruitment process to appoint a Council member in the room of Elaine.

Appointments process

4. In May 2013, the Council agreed the Appointment Process which set out the approach that would be taken in administering the appointments and other associated processes. This was produced in line with relevant guidance from the PSA. The Executive undertook a review of the process in 2014 and whilst they concluded that the process remained sound, some minor revisions were made to the document. This was agreed at the Council meeting in July 2014 and subsequently in December 2014.
5. Given the tight timeframe in relation to this recruitment exercise (we would wish to have a Council member in post by 1 January 2016), it would not be appropriate to undertake a review of the process at this time. Furthermore, the new Chair will be better placed to input into the review having been through the process as Chair. It is therefore proposed that a review be carried out in early 2016, in advance of any planned recruitment.

Assessment and selection panel

6. The proposed assessment and selection panel is as follows:
 - Elaine Buckley, Chair of Council and Chair of the Panel;
 - Gareth Hadley, Chair of the General Optical Council;
 - Penny Bennett, an independent;
7. Gareth Hadley was appointed Chair of the General Optical Council in February 2013. Gareth was the Chair of the panel for the recruitment of our Chair. He has extensive experience of public appointments having served as an Appointments Commissioner for the London, East of England and East Midlands Regions and this work included making appointments to the Health Professions Council.
8. Penny Bennett was the independent member for the recruitment of Chair. Penny has extensive experience in appointments having been a Health and Social Care Commissioner with both national and regional responsibilities for the appointments of Chairs, non-Executive Directors and members of a wide range of NHS bodies and NDBP's. More recently, she has been involved in the recruitment of Chairs and other non-Executive members of other healthcare regulators.

Decision

The Council is invited agree the assessment and selection panel set out in paragraph 7.

Background information

- PSA Good practice in making Council member and chair appointments to regulatory bodies
- PSA Section 25C scrutiny process
<http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/regulators/overseeing-regulators/appointments-to-councils>
- HCPC Appointments Process

Resource implications

- The appointments process is administered by the Secretariat Department. The resource implications have been included in planning for 2015-2016.

Financial implications

- The financial implications, such as advertising, are accounted for in the 2015-2016 Council budget.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

25 June 2015