

Health Professions Council
Education & Training Committee 29th March 2006

THE FUTURE OF THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The Registration Committee was established by the shadow Council in November 2001 under article 3 12 (a) of the Health Professions Order 2001 which states:

“The Council – (a) may establish such other committees as it considers appropriate in connection with the discharge of its functions...”

The Registration Committee is not a statutory committee and the Health Professions Order 2001 (HPO) makes no mention of the Committee. The role of the Committee is not set down in its standing orders. There is no Scheme of Delegation since the Education and Training Committee has so far decided not to delegate any of its powers to it.

At the request of the Education and Training Committee the Executive has reviewed what functions the Registration Committee should be responsible for.

As a starting point an analysis of the papers presented to the more recent meetings of the Registration Committee has been undertaken. The Committee met seven times from September 2004 to February 2006. A total of 10 “Decision” papers were presented and 15 “To Note” papers. Further details of these papers are attached in the appendix. All other papers were either Corporate Governance papers such as minutes or regular reports from UK and International registration managers.

Given the small number of papers presented to the Committee it is recommended that the Committee should be disbanded. If this decision is made by the Education and Training Committee, then two specific issues need to be addressed. They are as follows:

Oversight of the Registration Process

Historically, the main function of the Registration Committees of the Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine (CPSM) Boards was to make individual decisions about overseas applications. However, these types of decisions are now made by HPC Partners.

Because there is a corporate governance need for a committee to have an oversight of the operations of the registration and grandparenting processes, when operational, then a more logical solution is for the Finance and Resources Committee to undertake this task. As the registration process is inextricably linked to other operational functions such as finance, quality management, IT, human resources and partners, all of which are all currently the bailiwick of the Finance & Resources Committee, this grouping would have obvious benefits.

Comparable International Qualifications

Article 12 (2) (a) of the HPO requires the Education and Training Committee to:

assess whether a qualification awarded outside the United Kingdom is of a comparable standard to a qualification mentioned in paragraph (1) (a) and it shall, where it sees fit, keep a list of qualifications which are of a comparable standard which it shall publish and keep under review

It should be noted that because of the small number of programmes that meet the criteria set down by the Education & Training Committee the number of programmes forecast to be approved is likely to be less than four a year.

Given the breadth of experience of the members of the Education & Training Committee there is no obvious need to delegate this responsibility to another committee.

Recommendation

The Executive recommends that the Registration Committee should be disbanded forthwith.

Decision

The Committee is asked to agree the following:

1. To disband the Registration Committee with immediate effect.
2. The Education & Training Committee retains responsibility for Article 12 (2) (a) decisions.
3. To request the Council that the Finance and Resources Committee be given the responsibility of oversight of the registration processes.
4. To recommend to the Council that the members of the Registration Committee are reallocated to other statutory and non-statutory committees.

Background information

Standing Orders of the Registration Committee.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

The decision to disband the Registration Committee would save the HPC about £10,000 per year on the assumption that the membership of other committees will not be altered and that committee members are therefore not re-allocated to other committees.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Analysis of recent Registration Committee papers.

Date of paper
14th March 2006

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2006-03-13	a	CER	AGD	Future of Registration Committee	Final DD: None	Public RD: None