

CONFIDENTIAL

UK Public Health Register
Meeting of the Board held on 19 January 2010 at the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Chadwick Court, 15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ

PRESENT: Peter Farley (Chair)	Lillian Somerville (Vice Chair)
Paul Scourfield	Paul Robinson
Gail Douglas	Gabe Docherty (by phone to 4pm)
Jonathan Sexton	Sara Roberts
Suzanne Odams	Fiona Sim
Alison Wall (observer)	Amanda Little (observer)
David Pattison (observer)	Allison Thorpe (observer)
Zoe Clarke (observer)	Rodrigo Voss (observer)
Sarah North (secretary)	

Jenny Griffiths (for part of meeting)

Peter Farley welcomed everyone to the meeting and Gabe Docherty who joined by telephone. He particularly welcomed two new members: Gail Douglas who represents the SAC, RCS Dental Public Health Training Programme; and to Shirley Crawshaw who is here on behalf of Anthony Kessel, the new representative from the HPA.

Apologies were received from Brendan Yates, George Morris, Chris Tudor-Smith, Naresh Chada, Steve George, David Williams, Fiona Harris, Antony Townsend, Alison Wall, Neil Roberts, David Pruce, Ben Anderson, Hilde Rapp and Amy Nicholas.

Jenny Griffiths reported on the moderation process. This process was introduced subsequent to a report in 2008 where the register's processes were reviewed. Although quality assurance procedures were in place prior to moderation it was decided that a full moderation process be trialled. A period of retrospective moderation took place in 2008 when a sampling of some successful generalist portfolios was undertaken.

This was followed by a period in 2009 of moderation with portfolios that were being considered through the defined specialist route being moderated before they went to the Registration Panel. This enabled the moderator to speak to the assessors if it was felt that the decision reached was clearly questionable. All portfolios moderated under both processes have been randomly selected.

There are currently three areas of the moderator role. They are: retrospective referral by the Registration Panel; random sampling – retrospective or concurrent (by this it means taking a portfolio before it goes to the Panel); and informal support for assessors. Jenny Griffiths agreed to write a short article that could go on the website and in PH.com concerning the process. The UKPHR Board paid thanks to Jenny Griffiths for all her work. No major concerns have arisen during either process of audit/moderation, and the UKPHR Board was asked to note this, and the Board confirmed that it is very satisfied with the entire rigorous assessment process that the UKPHR operates.

The Board was asked to note that there had not been an Executive Committee meeting since the last UKPHR Board in November 2009. The UKPHR Board minutes were approved subject to two amendments which have now been done.

The final versions of the MOU/SLA are being prepared and these will be signed shortly by representatives from the four UK health departments and the UKPHR.

The UKPHR, after a meeting this morning has been advised that it will receive some financial support through commissioned work from DH to progress with the work on revalidation. This will be undertaken with the FPH and other regulators. The revalidation work that has been done for those who are medically qualified has notably progressed, and the Board commented that it is imperative, for the UKPHR reputation and equity, that the processes for both those medically and not medically qualified are commenced at the same time.

The Advisory Group will meet on the morning of 9 March before the next Board meeting to discuss mainly, the regulatory review. All members of the Board are also invited to this meeting. It was suggested that a new Chair should be appointed and suggestions were requested for names, and also for other members for the Advisory Group.

Allison Thorpe from DH reported on the regulatory review. She advised that the Chair of the Regulatory Review is Gabriel Scally. The terms of reference are being discussed between him and the CMO and it is hoped that these will be finally agreed shortly. It is acknowledged that the original timescale has not been met but that the review will be completed by the end of April. The Board commented that it hoped that all legal implications of possible outcomes would be investigated prior to completion of the review, as this could delay implementation of any recommendations.

The Board saw a report from the Registration Panel. There was no Panel this morning and those applications will now go to the February meeting. There are 434 people on the register: 340 generalist portfolio; 12 defined portfolio; 76 standard route; 6 dual registrants.

Lillian Somerville advised that she, and Zoe Clark, will be working with the HPA to trial the practitioner standards as proposed by the HPA, and approved at the last Board meeting; the UKPHR is currently mapping the NOS for health protection over to the UKPHR practitioner standards.

The Board saw notes of the first meeting of the Communication Strategy Group that was held in November 2009. The group identified work to be done and this will be taken forward, recognising problems with awareness with the wider public health bodies. It will look at the principles of communication and any comments would be welcome from the Board.

The Board noted that there is no change to the risk register.

The meeting then closed to observers. The DH representatives and the regulator representatives left the meeting.

The dates of the next two meetings are March 2010 and 11 May 2010 to be held at CIEH.