

PSI Council Public Meeting Minutes

Minutes of meeting number 154 of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), as established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, the public session of which convened online 08.30 am on Tuesday, May 20th, 2025.

Agenda Item A - Attendees & Apologies

Name	Role	Present (Yes/No)
Ms. Katherine Morrow	President	No
Dr. Denis O' Driscoll	Vice-President	Yes
Dr. Cyril Sullivan	Council Member	Yes
Dr. Ann McGarry	Council Member	Yes
Dr. Paula Barry Walsh	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Peter Dennehy	Council Member	No
Prof. Laura Sahm	Council Member	No
Mr. Martin Sisk	Council Member	Yes
Mr. John Given	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Grainne Power	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Geraldine Crowley	Council Member	No
Ms. Geraldine Campbell	Council Member	No
Ms. Marie Louisa Power	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Sean Reilly	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Rory O'Donnell	Council Member	No
Ms. Joan Peppard	Council Member	No
Ms. Dorothy Donovan	Council Member	No
Mr. Martin Higgins	Council Member	No
Mr. Mark Jordan	Council Member	Yes
Ms. Emily Kelly	Council Member	Yes
Mr. Richard Hammond S.C.	Council Member	Yes

Members of PSI staff in attendance:

Ms. Joanne Kissane, Registrar & Chief Officer.
Mr. Éanna Ó Lochlainn, Corporate Governance & Planning Officer.
Ms. Cora O'Connell, Acting Head of Practitioner Assurance
Ms. Ciara Dooley, Professional Standards Coordinator
Ms. Louise Hamra, Professional Standards Officer

Colour code: Red—for decision; Green—for discussion; Blue—for information

Agenda Item B – Declaration of Interest by Members of Council

Issue

Declaration of interests by members of Council.

Information

The Vice President drew Council members' attention to their obligations under paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacy Act 2007, which deals with the necessary disclosure of interests by members of the Council.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested by Council

Ms. Emily Kelly declared a conflict of interest with regard to item E.2. She recused herself from the meeting.

Agenda Item C – Request for approval to postpone approval of the draft Minutes of public Council meeting No.153.

Issue

Request for approval to postpone approval of the draft Minutes of public Council meeting No.153.

Information

None.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: Council approved the postponement of approval of the draft minutes of public Council meeting as convened on Thursday, April 24th, 2025, on the proposal of Mr. Martin Sisk, seconded by Dr. Cyril Sullivan.

Agenda Item D – Agreement on the Meeting Agenda

Issue

No changes were proposed to the meeting agenda as circulated.

Information

None

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested by Council

None

Agenda Item E.1 Report to Council from the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee**Issue**

Report to Council from the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee

Information

A copy of the Committee's Report had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. Ms. Grainne Power, deputising for the Committee Chair, Mr. Rory O'Donnell, informed Council the Committee had considered the Interim Evaluation Report submitted by the Accreditation Team (copies of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting), who had visited the Atlantic Technological University (ATU), as well as an update to same, following consideration of which, the Committee was recommending to Council that;

- (a) Council approves the Interim Evaluation Report and,
- (b) Council approves the Accreditation Team's recommendation to defer recognition and approval of the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) proposed master's degree in pharmacy.

Ms. Power invited questions from Council. Council noted the contents of the Interim Evaluation Report, as updated.

Following a robust, transparent, and inclusive discussion involving full participation from all members, Council agreed that, regardless of the concerns raised by the ATU during the accreditation visits and in subsequent correspondence with the PSI, its statutory responsibility to ensure that the education provided to prospective MPharm students meets the required standard remained paramount. In reviewing the contents of the Interim Evaluation Report (as updated), Council recognised that this statutory remit must take precedence in its consideration of any application for accreditation.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested by Council

Decision Approved: The Report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item E.2 - Recognition and approval of master's degree in pharmacy: Consideration of interim evaluation report of accreditation team in relation to the proposed MPharm programme of Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

Issue
Recognition and approval of master's degree in pharmacy: Consideration of interim evaluation report of accreditation team in relation to the proposed MPharm programme of Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

Information
Ms. Emily Kelly had recused herself from the meeting.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested by Council
<p>Decision Approved: Council approved the Accreditation Panel's Interim Evaluation Report, as updated, on Atlantic Technological University (ATU) proposed MPharm programme, on the proposal of Mr. Mark Jordan, seconded by Dr. Paula Barry Walsh</p> <p>Decision Approved: Council approved the deferment of the recognition and approval of Atlantic Technological University's (ATU) proposed master's degree in pharmacy on the proposal of Ms. Grainne Power, seconded by Dr. Cyril Sullivan.</p>

Following its decision, Council was provided with details of the next steps. Council were made aware that ATU had submitted a revised application and that this would be considered by the accreditation team, who would engage with ATU and the programme team by way of meeting, using the provisions afforded to the Council under Rule 8(3) of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Education and Training)(Integrated Course) Rules 2014. The timelines for the application were also raised by the Executive, and the complexity associated with the application process, particularly regarding the convening of an Accreditation Panel, Committees, and Council during the summer period, was noted.

The Meeting concluded at 10:30 am.

President

Date