



PSI Council Public Meeting Minutes

Minutes of meeting no. 156 of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), as established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, which convened online and commenced at 12:00 pm on Monday, 25 August 2025.

Agenda Item A - Attendees & Apologies

Name	Role	Present (Yes/No)
Dr Denis O'Driscoll	President	Yes
Prof Laura Sahm	Vice President	Yes
Dr Paula Barry Walsh	Council Member	Yes
Ms Geraldine Campbell	Council Member	Yes
Ms Geraldine Crowley	Council Member	No
Mr Peter Dennehy	Council Member	No
Ms Margaret Donnelly	Council Member	Yes
Mr Dorothy Donovan	Council Member	Yes
Adj. Prof John Given	Council Member	Yes
Mr Richard Hammond S.C.	Council Member	Yes
Mr Martin Higgins	Council Member	Yes
Mr Mark Jordan	Council Member	Yes
Ms Emily Kelly	Council Member	Yes
Dr Ann McGarry	Council Member	Yes
Ms Áine Mac Grory	Council Member	Yes
Mr Nigel Moloney	Council Member	Yes
Mr Leon O' Hagan	Council Member	Yes
Mr Cyril O'Sullivan	Council Member	Yes
Ms Gráinne Power	Council Member	Yes
Ms Joan Peppard	Council Member	Yes
Mr Martin Sisk	Council Member	Yes

Members of PSI staff in attendance included:	
Ms Joanne Kissane, Registrar and Chief Officer	
Mr Dan Burns, Head of Registration and Education	
Ms Ciara Dooley, Education and Professional Standards Co-Ordinator	
Ms Louise Hamra, Education and Professional Standards Officer	
Ms Ruth Baily, Governance Executive	

Agenda Item B – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Issue
Declaration of interests by members of Council
Information
Prof Laura Sahm and Ms Margaret Donnelly advised the President that they would abstain from voting on item D on the agenda. No other conflicts were advised.
Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
None

Agenda Item C – Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 155

Issue
Council was asked to approve the Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 155
Information
The President informed the Council that the draft minutes of the Public Council meeting held on 26 June 2025 had been circulated to the Council and that one amendment had been received. There was no further discussion or further amendments to the minutes.
Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
Decisions of Council: The Council approved the minutes of the Public meeting of Council on 26 June 2025, on the proposal of Adj. Prof. John Given, seconded by Mr. Martin Higgins.

Agenda Item D – Consideration of an application for first-time recognition and approval: MPharm Programme, Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

Issue
Consideration of an application for first-time recognition and approval: MPharm Programme, Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

Information

The Council considered the evaluation report on the outcome of a first-time application for accreditation of a five-year fully integrated Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) programme developed by the new Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Sligo, following a recommendation for approval, subject to conditions, by the Regulatory and Professional Policy Committee (RPP) at its meeting on 21 August.

The Council engaged in a comprehensive discussion on the recommendation of the accreditation team that the five-year MPharm be approved subject to conditions. Council explored the nature and implications of the conditions including their impact on program delivery and student experience.

The Council discussed whether ATU would be adequately prepared to admit students in 2025. Council was advised that if the programme were recognised and approved, places would be made available through the CAO for second-round applications on 28 August. Council was assured that the ATU has confirmed that active preparations for the programme's commencement have been underway since late 2024, and that a well-structured induction process has been planned to support incoming students.

Council discussed the number of places available and whether these would be open to international applicants. It was noted that the majority of applicants are expected to apply through the CAO process.

Council discussed the provision of experiential learning and whether Atlantic Technological University (ATU) had sufficiently addressed this aspect in its application. Council was informed that ATU has actively engaged with over 180 retail pharmacy businesses and industry stakeholders across the North West region, and that this engagement is ongoing. In addition, ATU has engaged and continues to engage with APPEL. Council emphasised the importance of sustained collaboration with practice sites and queried the mechanisms in place to ensure quality and consistency in experiential learning placements. Based on these efforts, ATU is expected to be in a position to deliver the required experiential learning component as part of its MPharm programme.

Council was advised that, as part of ongoing monitoring and oversight, a compliance visit is scheduled to take place during the first semester of the programme's second year. Council welcomed this measure and discussed the scope and timing of the visit, noting its importance in ensuring adherence to accreditation standards.

Following detailed discussion, Council approved the application for first-time recognition and approval of a five–year fully integrated Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) programme at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), subject to the conditions outlined in the accreditation report.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested

Decision Approved: The Council approved the application for first-time recognition and approval of a five–year fully integrated Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) programme at Atlantic Technological University (ATU) on the proposal of Ms Dorothy Donovan and seconded by Mr Martin Sisk.

The meeting concluded at 12.45.

Signed by

Chair

Date