PSI Council Public Meeting Minutes

Minutes of meeting No.167 of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), as established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, PSI House, Fenian Street, Dublin, at 08:30 am on Thursday, 30 April 2026.

Agenda Item 1 - 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- Online
Ms Geraldine Crowley	Council Member	No
Mr Peter Dennehy	Council Member	Yes
Ms Margaret Donnelly	Council Member	Yes
Ms Dorothy Donovan	Council Member	Yes - Online
Adj Prof John Given	Council Member	Yes
Mr Richard Hammond S.C.	Council Member	Yes
Mr Martin Higgins	Council Member	Yes- Online
Mr Mark Jordan	Council Member	Yes
Ms Emily Kelly	Council Member	Yes
Dr Ann McGarry	Council Member	No
Ms Áine Mac Grory	Council Member	Yes
Mr Nigel Moloney	Council Member	Yes
Mr Leon O' Hagan	Council Member	Yes
Ms Gráinne Power	Council Member	No
Ms Joan Peppard	Council Member	Yes
Mr Martin Sisk	Council Member	No
Mr Cyril Sullivan	Council Member	Yes- Online

Members of PSI staff in attendance included:
Ms Joanne Kissane, Registrar & Chief Officer
Ms Aoife Mellett Head of Legal Affairs, Governance and Programme Delivery
Ms. Laura Gannon, Regulatory Solicitor
Ms Wendy Confrey, Regulatory Executive
Ms Clara O'Reilly, Regulatory Executive

Agenda Item 2 – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Issue
Declaration of interests by members of Council.

Information
No conflicts of interest were declared.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
There was no decision or action from this agenda item.

Agenda Item 3 – Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 164

Issue
Council was asked to approve the Draft Minutes of Public Council Meeting No. 164

Information
The President informed Council that the draft minutes of the Public Council meeting, held on 26 March 2026, had been circulated, and that one amendment had been received. The amendment was reflected as a tracked change in the draft minutes. There was no further discussion or amendments to the minutes.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
Decision of Council: The Council approved, by consensus, the minutes of the Public Meeting of Council held on 26 March 2026, as amended.

Agenda Item 4 – Agreement on the Meeting Agenda

Issue
The President advised Council that AOB (Any Other Business) had been omitted from the Meeting agenda.

Information
The President confirmed he had received notice of one item to be tabled for discussion under AOB.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
Decision Approved: The Council approved the agenda for the meeting, subject to the addition of AOB, by consensus.

Agenda Item 5. – Request for Council approval of the appointment of a Returning Officer and an Alternate Returning Officer for the election of the President and Vice-President of the PSI.

Issue
Request for Approval from Council of the appointment of a Returning Officer and an Alternate Returning Officer for the Election of President & Vice President of Council.

Information
The Council was asked to approve the appointment of PSI staff members, Ms Aoife Mellett and Mr Éanna O' Lochlainn, as Presiding Officer and Alternate Presiding Officer, respectively, for the election of a President and Vice-President on 25 June 2026.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
Decision Approved: The Council approved, by consensus, the appointment of Ms Aoife Mellett and Mr Éanna Ó Lochlainn as Presiding and Alternate Presiding Officer, respectively, for the election of President and Vice President of the PSI Council on 25 June 2026.

Agenda Item 6 –Special Purposes Committee
Agenda Item 6.1 – Report to Council from the Special Purposes Committee

Issue
Report to Council from the Special Purposes Committee.

Information
A copy of the Special Purposes Committee Report to Council had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting. The President invited questions from Council. Council had no questions.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested
Decision Approved: The report was noted by Council.

Agenda Item 6.2 - Request for Approval - Appointments to Advisory Committees

Issue
Request for approval of the appointment of Council members to PSI Advisory Committees

Information

Following a recommendation by the Special Purposes Committee, Council was asked to consider the following in respect of the PSI Audit and Risk Committee:

1. The re-appointment of Ms Ciara Lynch as an external (non-Council) member of the PSI Audit and Risk Committee for a second term of three years;
2. The appointment of Mr Martin Kelly, following an Expression of Interest process and subsequent review of applications, as an external member of the PSI Audit and Risk Committee for a term of three years and
3. The establishment of a panel for future external member vacancies on the Audit and Risk Committee, to remain in place until March 2028, comprising the following individuals:
   - Mr Conor Sexton
   - Mr Donall Curtain
   - Mr Colin Kelly
   - Mr David Holohan
   - Ms Leonie Clarke

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested

Decision approved: Council approved the following by consensus:

1. The re-appointment of Ms Ciara Lynch as an external (non-Council) member of the PSI Audit and Risk Committee for a second term of three years;
2. The appointment of Mr Martin Kelly as an external member of the PSI Audit and Risk Committee for a term of three years; and
3. The establishment of a panel for future external member vacancies on the Audit and Risk Committee, to remain in place until March 2028, comprising: Mr Conor Sexton, Mr Donall Curtain, Mr Colin Kelly, Mr David Holohan, and Ms Leonie Clarke.

AOB

Issue
Any other Business

Information

The Registrar and the President thanked Council member, Ms Dorothy Donovan, for her significant contribution to the work of the PSI, noting that, as she had reached the end of her term of office, that this would be her final scheduled Council meeting. Ms. Donovan thanked the Registrar, President and Council in return.

A Council member raised a matter in relation to the scheduled increase to fees for registration and continued registration, including the potential for the introduction of more flexible payment options, such as monthly or quarterly instalments, to support registrants in light of current economic conditions.

The Executive acknowledged the challenging economic circumstances currently faced by pharmacists, including the costs of travelling to work, and recognised the financial pressures on the sector. The Executive also outlined the significant legal, operational, financial, and regulatory challenges associated with introducing an instalment-based payment system under the current legislative framework. It was noted that the Pharmacy Act provides for a system of annual registration, with payment linked to a 12-month period, and does not readily accommodate alternative payment structures. The Executive further highlighted that implementation of such a system would require considerable organisational resources and, if progressed, would necessitate decisions by Council regarding what existing priorities or deliverables within the Service Plan 2026 would not be progressed in order to accommodate this work.

The Executive also reminded Council that, as part of previous discussions on the fees matter, it had committed to examining how registrants on maternity leave, adoptive leave, surrogacy leave, and extended sick leave could be supported, and that this work is currently scheduled for consideration as part of future service planning (expected in 2027).

Council gave the matter detailed and careful deliberation, with a range of perspectives expressed. A number of additional perspectives were raised, including whether the issue could be considered as part of PSI's approach to compassionate regulation. It was also noted by a Council member that similar proposals had been explored in another organisation and had proven complex to implement in practice.

Following discussion, Council did not request the Executive to scope or progress the introduction of an instalment payment model at this time.

Council members were also reminded to return their iPads as all Council documents will be circulated via iBabs in future.

Decision Approved and/or Action Requested

Decision Approved: The Council agreed that the Executive should not scope or progress the introduction of an instalment payment model at this time.

The meeting concluded at 10.00am.

Signed by

_____ _____

President **Date**