

Audit Committee 10 December 2008

Election of Vice-Chairman

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Professor Tony Hazell, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, will be stepping down from the Council on 31 December 2008 to become the Chair of the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Decision

The Committee is asked to nominate a person to be appointed by the Council as Vice-Chairman, with the appointment to take effect from 1 January 2009.

Background information

The process for election of Committee Chairmen (which also applies for the election of Committee Vice-Chairmen) was agreed at the Council meeting on 12 July 2005. A copy of the process is attached.

On 31 May 2007, the Council agreed that, pending the implementation of the changes to governance proposed in the White Paper, the membership of Committees should remain unchanged. However, the Council agreed that the committees could hold elections for the Chairman at each committee's discretion.

The Committee's Standing Orders, which are reviewed by the Committee at each September meeting, provide that:

- the Council shall appoint one of its members to be Chairman of the Committee and the person appointed shall serve as Chairman for a period of two years, but shall be eligible for re-appointment (Standing Order 9);
- the Council may appoint a member to be Vice-Chairman of the Committee, to preside at any meeting of the Committee at which the Chairman is absent. The person appointed shall serve as Vice-Chairman for a period of two years but shall be eligible for re-appointment. (Standing Order 11);
- if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, or otherwise unable or unwilling to preside at a meeting, the members present shall, as the first business of the meeting, elect one of their number to preside at that meeting (Standing Order 12).

Resource implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Appendices

Process for the election of Chairmen of Committees.

Date of paper

10 October 2008

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HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL

Process for the election of Chairmen of Committees

Introduction

The Health Professions Order 2001 provides for all Committee appointments (including sub-committees) to be made by the Council and, therefore, the appointment of Committee chairmen is made by the Council and not the Committee concerned.

Process

- At its first meeting, each committee is asked to nominate a person to be appointed by the Council as chairman of that committee.
- In the event that only one member is nominated then, unless the Council decides to the contrary, that person will be appointed as Chairman.
- If more than one member is nominated or the committee cannot agree on a nomination, then, in relation to the candidates nominated or who have put themselves forward, a secret ballot will be conducted by the Secretary of the Committee among the members of Committee present.
- Before the ballot is conducted each candidate will be given the opportunity, if they so wish, to address the Committee for not more than five minutes.
- The members nominated may scrutinise the ballot process or appoint another member to do so on their behalf.
- The Registrar will announce the result of the ballot to the meeting and the winning candidate will be appointed as Chairman.
- The term of office of Chairmen is two years.

Agreed at 12 July 2005 Council meeting