
Council, 9 December 2010

Proposed amendments to the content of Annual report and accounts

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Following feedback from Council at its 20 May 2010 meeting, it is proposed that a number of amendments are made to the content of the Annual report and financial statements (Item 16.10/83 Draft Health Professions Council Annual Report - Report ref: HPC63/10).

Background

In accordance with Article 46(1) (b) of the Health Professions Order 2001, the annual report and financial statements are prepared in a form directed by the Privy Council in its Accounts Direction. This complies with the HM Treasury guidance on the preparation of accounts for non-departmental public bodies, as if the Health Professions Council were a non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health. Our accounts also meet International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Proposed changes

The changes will include:

- removing the “Foreword from the Chair” and “Introduction from the Chief Executive” and instead including one, jointly authored introduction;
- removing the Council and Committee member biographies; and
- removing the Council and Committee member attendance tables.

The justification for removing these entries is that they make the report unnecessarily long and complex. In its discussion of 20 May 2010, Council commented that this information is not included as standard in the accounts of similar organisations and, as such, was unnecessary. Removal of these parts of the report will continue to allow us to meet the relevant financial reporting standards. It should also be noted that attendance tables are now included in the recently revised appraisal forms for Council and Committee members.

This paper was discussed by the Communications Committee at its meeting of 4 November 2010 and the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council the following amendments, with effect from the 2010-11 annual report and accounts:

- removing the ‘Foreword from the Chair’ and ‘Introduction from the Chief Executive’ and instead including one, jointly authored, introduction;

- removing the Council and Committee member biographies; and
- removing the Council and Committee member attendance tables.

There was some discussion around the removal of the Council and Committee member attendance tables. One view was that these are not necessary since members are appointed in a transparent and publically-accountable manner by the Appointments Commission. Another view was that these should be retained for the sake of transparency. It was also noted that attendance is considered as part of the appraisal process.

Decision

Council is asked to:-

- (i) discuss and agree the proposed amendments to the content of the Annual report and accounts, with effect from the 2010–11 report, as follows:-
 1. Removal of the “Foreword from the Chair” and “Introduction from the Chief Executive” and instead include one, jointly authored introduction;
 2. Removal the Council and Committee member biographies;
 3. Removal the Council and Committee member attendance tables.
- (ii) Consider whether attendance tables should be published on the HPC website, as an alternative to publication in the annual report and accounts.

Background Information

(www.hpc-uk.org/aboutus/committees/communications_archive/index.asp?id=506).

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None – but potentially a small cost saving due to reduction in length of report.

Date of paper

29 November 2010