
Review of standing orders

Executive Summary

Each of the Council's committees should review its standing orders regularly to ensure that these remain appropriate and dynamic in response to any changes within the organisation or to the environment in which the HCPC is operating. It is good practice for the standing orders to be reviewed in conjunction with the review of a committee's effectiveness so that any amendments as a result of the review can be reflected in the standing orders and recommended to the Council for approval.

Some changes to the standing orders have been marked up on the attached document, recognising that there may be further changes recommended as a result of the review of the effectiveness of the Education and Training Committee (ETC) taking place earlier in the meeting.

Previous consideration	The standing orders were last reviewed and amended by the Council in February 2023.
Decision	The Committee is asked to consider the proposed amendments and propose any further changes to the standing orders for recommendation to the Council.
Next steps	Changes to the standing orders would be considered by the Council at its meeting on 20 March 2024.
Strategic priority	Build a resilient, healthy, capable and sustainable organisation.
Financial and resource implications	None identified.
EDI impact and Welsh Language Standards	None identified
Author	Karen Flaherty, Head of Governance karen.flaherty@hcpc-uk.org

Education and Training Committee

Standing Orders

1. Terms of Reference

1.1 The Education and Training Committee is to perform:

- a) the functions conferred on it by or under the Health Professions Order 2001; and
- b) and other functions that the Council may require it to undertake.

1.2 A panel meeting of the Committee (an Education and Training Panel or a Panel) may only conduct one or more of the items of business of the Committee specified in rule 6(43) of the Health and Care Professions Council (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2023. These items of business are:

- a) considering visitors' reports and, if thought fit, approving the course of education or training, qualification or institution to which a report and observations (if any) relate;
- b) considering and, if thought fit, approving a recommendation for a focussed review arising from the monitoring of an approved programme; and
- a)c) considering focused review reports, and if thought fit, providing a continue to approve recommendation.

~~1.2 The Committee will present a report to the Council on its activities annually~~

2. Membership and Quorum

2.1 The composition of the Education and Training Committee is determined by the Council in the Health and Care Professions Council (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2023.

2.2 The quorum at a meeting of the Committee is any three members. The quorum for a Panel is two members. If, during a meeting, a quorum ceases to exist, the meeting must be dissolved and all remaining business adjourned to the next meeting of the Committee or a Panel (as the case may be).

- 2.3 Where a Panel decision is papers-based, this requires the approval of any two members.

3. Chair

- 3.1 The Chair, who is appointed by the Chair of the Council, is to preside at any Committee meeting.
- 3.2 If the Chair is absent from or unable to preside at a meeting, the members present must nominate another member to serve as chair at that meeting.
- 3.3 The Chair must provide a report on the work of the Committee to the Council at least once each year, as the Council may direct following each meeting of the Committee.
- 3.4 A Chair will be appointed for each Panel, whether the decision is made in a meeting or papers-based.

4. Frequency and Notice of Meetings

- 4.1 The Committee will meet as required, which will usually be four times in each year.
- 4.14.2 The Committee Panel meetings are only required for decisions which that require discussion.
- 4.24.3 A monthly papers-based approval route for a Panel will be used for all other pre-defined decisions, with at least two members confirming or rejecting such decisions through correspondence.- These will be scheduled monthly or otherwise as required.
- 4.34.4 Where a Committee meeting is held the Secretary must give members at least seven days' notice of the time and place of a meeting. Failure to send notice of a meeting to a member does not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting.

5. Decision Making

- 5.1. The Committee and Panel shall make decisions based on a tier system set out as follows:
- a) Tier 1 - Papers-based
 - b) Tier 2 - Panel meeting
 - c) Tier 3 - Committee meeting
- 5.2 —The operation of each Tier is as follows:
- a) Tier 1 – where only the visitors' view is presented to the Committee Panel, and the executive considers there is no information which suggests that the Committee Panel will make a decision other than the one recommended by the visitors, papers shall be shared with two-three rota'd Panel members, who will be Committee members, who have a set period of time

to confirm their approval or rejection of the visitors' recommendations. The decision cannot relate to the non-approval or withdrawal of approval of a programme and can only relate to the items of business specified in rule 6(3) of The Health and Care Professions Council (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2023 as set out in Standing Order 1.2;

- b) Tier 2 – Panel meetings shall be arranged in advance where the executive considers that discussion is likely to be required to make a decision, but the decision does not relate to the non-approval or withdrawal of approval of a programme and can only relate to the items of business specified in rule 6(3) of The Health and Care Professions Council (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2023 as set out in Standing Order 1.2;
- c) Tier 3 – Items shall be added to existing Committee meetings or one item meetings or a resolution without a meeting as permitted in Standing Order 13 shall be arranged where an urgent decision is required. Decisions in relation to the non-approval or withdrawal of approval of a programme or are not items of business for a Panel as specified in rule 6(3) of The Health and Care Professions Council (Education and Training Committee) (Constitution) Rules 2023 may be made at/by the Committee meetings.

6. Agenda

- 6.1 The Secretary must issue an agenda for each meeting. Except in cases of urgency or where circumstances make it impracticable to do so, the agenda for a meeting and any accompanying papers must be sent to members at least seven days before the meeting.

7. Transparency

- 7.1 All Committee meetings must be open to the public unless the business under consideration concerns:
 - a) information relating to a registrant, former registrant or applicant for registration;
 - b) information relating to an employee or office holder, former employee office holder or an applicant for any post or office;
 - c) the terms of, or expenditure under, a tender or contract for the purchase or supply of goods or services or the acquisition or disposal of property;
 - d) negotiations or consultation concerning labour relations between the Council and its employees;
 - e) any issue relating to legal proceedings which are being contemplated or instituted by or against the Council;
 - f) action being taken to prevent or detect crime or to prosecute offenders;
 - g) the source of information given to the Committee in confidence; or

- h) any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chair, is confidential or the public disclosure of which would prejudice the effective discharge of the Committee's or [the](#) Council's functions.

8. Minutes of meetings

- 8.1 The Secretary must keep minutes of each meeting, which must include a record of the members present at that meeting.
- 8.2 At each meeting, the minutes of the preceding meeting must be [confirmed approved](#) (or ~~confirmed approved as amended~~[subject to amendments](#)) and be signed by the Chair as a true record of that meeting. The signed minutes of a meeting, unless the contrary is proved, are conclusive proof of the proceedings of that meeting.

8.3 The [minutes of each meeting of the Committee will be provided to the Council following](#) ~~Committee must report to Council formally after~~ each meeting. [This may occur prior to the minutes being approved by the Committee.](#)

9. Conduct of Meetings

- 9.1 The order of business at a meeting must follow that set out in the agenda unless it is varied by the Chair with the consent of the meeting.
- 9.2 A member may only initiate a debate or move a motion on a matter which is not on the agenda with the consent of the Chair. All motions must relate to matters that are within or related to the functions of the Committee.
- 9.3 A member must speak to the subject under discussion. The Chair may call attention to any irrelevance, repetition or other improper conduct on the part of a member and, where the member persists in that conduct, may direct that member to cease speaking.
- 9.4 A ruling by the Chair on any question of order, whether or not provided for by the Standing Orders, is final and not open to debate.

10. Voting

- 10.1 Except where the Order [or these Standing Orders specifies](#) ~~specify~~ otherwise, any question at a meeting is to be decided by a majority of the members present voting by a show of hands.
- 10.2 In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair is entitled to an additional casting vote.

11. Disorder

- 11.1 Members must comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.
- 11.2 If, in the Chair's opinion, a member has persistently disregarded the ruling of the Chair or behaved in a manner which is obstructing the business of

the meeting, the Chair may order that member to withdraw from the whole or part of the remainder of the meeting.

- 11.3 If a person other than a member interrupts the proceedings at any meeting, the Chair may order that person to be removed from the meeting or may order the part of the room which is open to the public to be cleared.
- 11.4 In the event of a disturbance which, in the Chair's opinion, prevents the orderly conduct of business, the Chair may adjourn the meeting for a period that the Chair considers appropriate.

12. Members' interests

- 12.1 Members must make a declaration of their personal interests in the form required by the Council (which must be published in the Council's Register of Members' Interests) and must ensure that their interests as set out in that Register are accurate and up to date.
- 12.2 The agenda for every meeting must include as an item of business the declaration of interests.
- 12.3 A member who has a personal interest in any matter under consideration at that meeting, whether or not declared in the Register of Members' Interests, must promptly disclose that interest to the meeting. If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting during the Committee's consideration of that matter.

13. Virtual meetings

- 13.1 Meetings of the Committee (or a Panel) should be held by electronic means where possible, without any number of the members participating in the meeting being required to be together at the same place.
- 13.2 Where a meeting is to be conducted by electronic means, the notice under Standing Order 4.3 must include the arrangements for members to access the meeting.
- 13.3 At a meeting held by electronic means, members must be able:
 - a) to hear and be heard by (and, where practicable, to see and be seen by) the other participating members and any person invited to participate in the meeting; and
 - b) to be heard by (and, where practicable, seen by) any members of the public or the press attending the meeting.
- 13.4 At a meeting held by electronic means, the Chair is to determine the method by which votes are to be cast and Standing Order 4.1 does not apply.
- 13.5 Where practicable, the Committee must make arrangements (such as by telephone or video conference or live webcast or streaming) for the public

and press to be able to attend remotely a meeting held by electronic means.

14. Approval of resolutions without meeting

- 14.1 A resolution which, with the Chair's consent, is circulated to, and approved in writing or electronic form by at least three quarters of the members entitled to receive notice of and attend a Committee meeting is as valid as if it had been passed at such a meeting.

15. The Secretary

- 15.1 The Secretary to the Council, or any other person that the Secretary to the Council may appoint, is to be the Secretary to the Committee (the Secretary).

16. Effectiveness

- 16.1 The Committee should periodically review its own effectiveness and report to the Council on this assessment.

17. Adoption

- 17.1 These Standing Orders were adopted by the Council on ~~23 February 2023~~[20 March 2024](#) and supersede all previous versions. They apply to any Committee meeting held after that date.