

Welcome to Update



Welcome to the second edition of our Regulatory Update in 2023.

In this edition, we report on the presentation given by Michaela McAleer to the Pharmacy NI Conference.

We wish the candidates for the Common Registration Assessment good luck and highlight important registration dates for successful candidates.

We highlight the September Council meeting and our plans to introduce a Direct Debit payment option for the annual retention fee in June 2024.

We thank you for your great response to the Annual Equality Monitoring Survey 2023-24 and ask you to save the date for the Annual General Meeting on 12 October 2023.

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You can read previous editions of our Regulatory Update [here](#)

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Michaela McAleer, CEO of the Pharmaceutical Society NI at the 2023 NI Pharmacy Conference



On 31 May 2023, Michaela McAleer, CEO of the Pharmaceutical Society NI gave a well-received talk on Regulatory Opportunities and Challenges at the 2023 NI Pharmacy Conference.

Looking to the future, Michaela welcomed the UK government's rebalancing policy and related legislation which is beginning to change the way we are able to fulfil our regulatory functions. The government programme seeks to rebalance ministerial powers and the powers of the regulators so that pharmacy practice matters are more appropriately set by the pharmacy regulators and less by government ministers in order that matters within the ambit of the pharmacy regulation are dealt with by the pharmacy regulators and by registration sanctions rather than by the criminal courts.

Pharmacy practice standards will be set and enforced by pharmacy regulators and less by inflexible legislation. Underpinning this is an outcomes-based approach that is the safe and effective practice of pharmacy should be the required outcome rather than binding the profession to processes or ways of doing things.

Michaela welcomed this change and noted that pushing the power to set and enforce regulation to the regulator and away from the requirement for legislative change, will enable us to continue our journey as the only locally accountable health professional regulator, to be more reflective of local concerns, be more agile in regulating changes in local pharmacy and to be a more compassionate regulator in achieving our continuing goal to ensure patient safety within Northern Ireland.

Michaela recognised that there will, of course, be challenges along this journey. While the UK government's regulatory reform has now begun with the GMC, it is likely that the implementation of substantial reform to our processes may still be some time away. However, we will continue to press for the necessary regulatory reforms within the current environment.

Michaela concluded her talk with recognition that we all need to ensure we are ready to embrace the changes that are coming. Rebalancing will also impact on our organisation, with a need to enhance our capacity to create and enforce regulation, as required. However, being a local regulator enables us to work closely with the local representatives, our universities and educational establishments and directly with the CPO and Department of Health NI to quickly resolve issues and ensure that the necessary regulatory changes are made.

Good independent regulation and reform does not operate in a vacuum and, to stay in touch with those issues impacting on the public and pharmacy professionals, requires constructive and positive relationships with the public, pharmacy representative bodies and other stakeholders and we continue to seek new contacts and to improve our engagement. We look forward to engaging with you on this or any other issue.

Common Registration Assessment

We wish all trainee pharmacists good luck for the Common Registration Assessment on **27 June 2023**.

The key dates for the registration process for successful candidates are:

30 June 2023	Online Registration Application opens.
14 July 2023	Cut-off date to ensure registration by 04 August 2023.
28 July 2023	Common Registration Assessment results released.
04 August 2023	Registration date for those eligible applicants who completed an Online Registration Application and paid fee by 14 July 2023.

A dedicated webpage has been set up with information about the June Assessment and details have been emailed to all local candidates. General information about the assessment is available on the dedicated [webpage](#) or on the [GPhC website](#).

Annual Retention

From next year (2024/2025), we plan to introduce the option to pay your annual retention fee quarterly by Direct Debit in June 2024. More information on this will be provided in due course.

Upcoming Council meeting

The next public Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 September 2023 at 73 University Street, commencing promptly at 09:30 am. Council meetings are open to the public, except in exceptional circumstances.

Council agenda and key papers are now available before Council Meetings from [here](#).

Should you wish to attend, please contact the Council Secretary, June Alexander (june.alexander@psni.org.uk), at least one working day in advance of the meeting, advising of your attendance and stating any particular access requirements you may have.

The latest approved Council minutes from the meeting of 21 March 2023 can be found [here](#).

A full list of all Council minutes can be found [here](#).

Equality Monitoring Survey 2023-24

The Pharmaceutical Society NI is undertaking its annual equality monitoring of the Register of Pharmacists in Northern Ireland.

The information collected enables us to better understand the diversity of Pharmacists in Northern Ireland. This means that, when we are developing new or revising existing policies, we can identify any group or groups that may be adversely affected by any of our proposals.

We would like to thank the **947 registrants** who have completed this year's survey which typically takes two minutes. If you have not completed the survey for this year, we would encourage you to do so now through the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QLMHLLT>

Completion of the survey is voluntary and anonymous.

Your help in compiling this information is very much appreciated.

Save the Date, Annual General Meeting 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



GET INVOLVED!

The Pharmaceutical Society NI's Annual Report for 2022-2023 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 12 October 2023** at Society House, 73 University Street, Belfast.

The meeting is open to all registrants and members of the public.

We look forward to seeing you there. Registration details will be forwarded in due course.

Newsletter Feedback

As always, we welcome your feedback on this Newsletter to make it as effective as possible. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please contact:

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