

Welcome to Update



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

In this edition, we highlight the Professional Standards Authority report on the Pharmaceutical Society NI's performance during 2021/2022.

We report on the March Council and the Scrutiny Committee's annual report.

We highlight our webpage on the June Common Registration Assessment and give an update on the ongoing review of the Code.

Lastly, we highlight an upcoming presentation by our CEO, Michaela McAleer, and some news you may have missed.

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Review previous editions

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

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The Pharmaceutical Society NI meets all the Professional Standards Authority's Standards of Good Regulation for 2021/22

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) has published its Performance Review of the Pharmaceutical Society NI as part of its annual review of the ten statutory health and social care regulators across the UK. The Performance Review assesses whether each regulator is meeting the PSA's 18 Standards of Good Regulation.

The PSA has confirmed that the Pharmaceutical Society NI has met all the Standards of Good Regulation for 2021/2022. A copy of the PSA's Performance Review can be found [here](#).

Dr. Geraldine O'Hare, President of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, said,

"We are delighted with this year's Performance Review and I want to thank all the staff at the Pharmaceutical Society NI for their hard work and professionalism which is reflected in this outcome. I am particularly pleased that the PSA's conclusions will give further reassurance to the public and pharmacy professionals that we are doing the right things to protect the public while ensuring that our processes are fair, proportionate and transparent to all those involved.

"Building on this year's performance, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI is developing a new Corporate Strategy that will again set ambitious objectives for the organisation, aimed at driving further improvements in our regulatory performance".

Reflecting on the report, Michaela McAleer, the Chief Executive Officer of the Pharmaceutical Society NI said,

"We are very pleased with the outcome to this year's performance review. We will continue to consider the helpful comments and observations made by the PSA, as part of its report, within our internal programme of work to ensure we are an anticipatory and forward-thinking regulator who fully utilises feedback and opportunities for continuous improvement and learning.

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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Report from the March Council



March Council members and Pharmaceutical Society NI senior staff

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI met in public session on Tuesday 21 March 2023. Full details of the matters considered during the public session can be found [here](#).

Cathy Harrison, the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, gave a presentation to Council explaining her department's functions and their impacts on pharmacy care in Northern Ireland. Dr Geraldine O'Hare, President of the Council, thanked Cathy for her excellent presentation.



Michaela McAleer, Chief Executive Officer, Cathy Harrison, the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and Dr. Geraldine O'Hare, President of the Council (left to right).

Upcoming Council meeting

The next public Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, 9 May 2023 at 73 University Street. commencing promptly at 09:30 am. Council meetings are now hybrid and 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 31 January 2023 can be found [here](#).

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

The June 2022 Common Registration Assessment

The Common Registration Assessment will take place on 27 June 2023.

A dedicated [webpage](#) has been set up with information about the June Assessment and details have been emailed to all local prospective candidates.

General information about the assessment is available on the dedicated [webpage](#) or on the [GPhC website](#).

Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2022

The March Council considered and approved the Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report on its work during 2022.

Five fitness to practise cases were concluded by the Committee during that period with three cases being referred to the Statutory Committee for fitness to practise hearing. Two cases were concluded by the Scrutiny Committee using its legislative powers, with a warning being given in both cases.

Full details of the Scrutiny Committee report can viewed [here](#).

The Scrutiny Committee highlighted the following learnings for the profession from the cases it concluded.

Honesty and integrity

- A Registered Pharmacist must behave at all times with the upmost integrity adhering to the highest professional standards and never act in any manner which could or would call the profession into disrepute.
- Registered Pharmacists must all at all times adhere to the Professional Code and behave in a manner befitting a member of the Profession of Registered Pharmacists, particularly with reference to honesty and integrity.
- Pharmacy trainees should be reminded that any serious concerns raised against their actions before registration may be considered by the Registrar for referral to the Fitness to Practise Committees following registration.

Update on the Review of the Code

An update on the Code Review project timeline is displayed below.

September - October 2022	Code Advisory Group formed from representatives from pharmacy professional bodies, pharmacy unions, academia, hospitals, GP Federations, pharmacy trainees and public groups.
15 November 2022	Code Advisory Group met and proposed changes to the Code based on a literature review, a gap analysis and a Call for Evidence.
16 January 2023	The call for 'Evidence on the Code review' closes.
November 2022 to April 2023	Revised draft Code developed from evidence from Advisory Group, the Call for Evidence and stakeholder discussions.
27 April 2023	Meeting of Code Advisory Group to discuss the draft Code.
April / May 2023	Engagement with stakeholders. Revision of the draft Code following the meeting of the Code Advisory Group.
May / June 2023	Council consideration of the draft Code for a 12-week public consultation.

Further updates will be issued when available.

CEO Michaela McAleer presenting at the NI Pharmacy Conference

Michaela McAleer, the Pharmaceutical Society NI's Chief Executive Officer, will be joining other leading figures in Pharmacy to present her views on the future of pharmacy at the NI Pharmacy Conference on Wednesday 31 May 2023 at the ICC Belfast, hosted by BBC Northern Ireland's Health Correspondent, Marie-Louise Connolly.

Registration is now open for this free-to-attend event and further details can be found on the ICC website [here](#).

News you may have missed

08/02/23 [The Pharmaceutical Society NI welcomes the UK Commission on Pharmacy Professional Leadership report.](#)

The Pharmaceutical Society NI welcomes the report published by the UK Commission on Pharmacy Professional Leadership which highlights the importance of effective professional pharmacy leadership in the development of the pharmacy profession into the future and the crucial link between the regulatory bodies and the profession.

The full news article can be found [here](#).

03/03/23 [No increase in Pharmacist Registration or Retention Fees in 2023/24](#)

Council confirmed its decision to continue the freeze on registration fees for the 7th successive year.

The full news item can be found [here](#).

23/01/23 [Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland new LinkedIn page](#)

23/1/23 As part of its continuing communication and engagement programme, the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland has opened a new organisational LinkedIn page at:

www.linkedin.com/company/pharmaceutical-society-of-northern-ireland/

We look forward to you visiting us.