

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Transcript of the Public session of the Council meeting held on 3 February 2010 at 1 Lambeth High Street, London, SE1 7JN

[Decisions in square brackets and narrow type are taken from the unconfirmed minutes of Council and therefore are subject to amendment].

The Transcript of the public meeting of the Council is not the formal record of the meeting. The formal record comprises the papers presented to the meeting and the minutes as subsequently approved. The policy of the RPSGB is actively debated at the meeting. The views expressed in the transcript do not necessarily represent the Society's agreed policy.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

COUNCIL MEETING

Present

President	Mr S Churton
Vice-President	Mr M Astbury
Treasurer	Mr J Gentle
Mr S Acres	Ms S Agha
Mr G Alexander	Mrs M Allan
Professor N Barber	Mrs K Blair
Mr D Carter	Mrs D Drury
Dr P Entwistle	Ms S Hikins
Mrs L Jacobs	Mr J Jolley
Mr A Kershaw	Miss Y Liddell
Dr T Learoyd	Mrs S Kilby
Professor B Michell	Mrs A Moore
Ms M Saunders	Mr D Thomson
Mrs V Turner	

In attendance

Ms Mair Davies, representative from the Welsh Pharmacy Board; Mrs Sandra Melville, representative from the Scottish Pharmacy Board; Mr Graham Phillips from the English Pharmacy Board (Wednesday 3 February 2010 only) and Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar

Welcome to guests

The President welcomed the representatives from the newly elected National Pharmacy Boards – Ms Mair Davies, Welsh Pharmacy Board; Mrs Sandra Melville, Scottish Pharmacy Board and on Wednesday 3 February 2010 Mr Graham Phillips, English Pharmacy Board.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Graeme Hall and Mrs Jane Ramsey.

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Mr Steve Churton, The President: Before we go into confidential business, I will slip back into public business under AOB. Michelle wishes to raise one issue with us.

Mrs Michele Savage, Professional Body Governance Adviser: Good morning Council. As you are aware Catherine Duggan, who did sit on Council, was appointed by Council to the English Pharmacy Board. As we are still operating under the current regulations, Council can appoint somebody else to sit on the English Board before the demerger. I want to ask Council whether they wish to do that. If they do, we would need to have somebody appointed from Council today. Do you feel you want to appoint somebody for the period in time until the demerger?

Mrs Lorna Jacobs: I would say yes. My thought would be that it would be appropriate.

The President: Do Council want to do that?

Mr John Gentle, The Treasurer: Just before we do that, Graham is here representing the English Board, just to check what the Board view would be.

The President: I think with all due respect, John, it is Council's decision as to whether they want to put somebody forward.

The Treasurer: I agree. But I was just wondering why, if the Board don't want it, Council would be obsessed with it with only two months to go. What would the benefit be?

Mr Graham Phillips: Good morning everyone. Nice to be back here (I think)! I have to say I cannot see this is going to add a great deal of value to our deliberations. I can see that it will add cost and not continuity. If we are really serious about empowering the Boards, I believe it sends the wrong messages.

Mr Martin Astbury, The Vice-President: I often go to different meetings where I end up with two heads on! On the English Board, I actually have two hats (or heads)! At the moment I am on the Board, as I have been elected as of right, and I am there as Council member for England. Obviously that position still exists, and I am there. But I certainly would not dream of exercising my voting right from that position on any matters to do with the future professional body. If it was a regulatory matter going through that professional body, I could understand that I could even contemplate doing it. I will not though, because I do not think it will be right (or maybe even possible) to use two votes. But I think people who are still on that Board because we are regulatory will have to think very carefully how they use their position while they are on that Board.

Mrs Michele Savage: One of the reasons for having the lay member and the Council members on the Board was to ensure that there was good communication between what the Boards were doing and Council. There are a number of Council members who are now elected on the English Pharmacy Board. So I do not think that is so much of a concern. I think it is a different position for the lay member, but for the Council members -- I cannot remember how many now sit on the English Pharmacy Board, but if you could bear that in mind when making this decision.

Professor Bob Michell: Obviously it is a matter for the pharmacists. The only thing I drop into the pond is time. I would not be opening my piggy bank to bet that the current uncertainties as to the lifespan of the RPS (currently extended to June) may not yet have to extend further. Because I believe that clearly there will be an election by May, and the aftermath of the election will be chaos.

Mrs Margaret Allan: It is first thing in the morning, and I may have misunderstood what we are doing here. I sit on the Welsh Board, as Council member, but I have been told that from now on in, I do not attend the Welsh Board meetings. That was the official line that was sent to me. Is this different? Am I getting confused?

Mrs Michele Savage: It is because you are an ex officio member. It is not under the regulations. This is purely because it is under the regulations. If you were there you could, but unfortunately you are not, Margaret.

Mrs Dorothy Drury: It seems rather sudden to be asked to decide about this. Has it got to be decided today?

The President: It has not *got* to be decided today, Dorothy. I think the issue is: do Council wish to replace Kathryn on the Board? It is a simply yes or no. **(General yes)** I am hearing a yes. We need to select who the person is to sit on the Board for the duration before the separation. The proposal is that we give some time to people to think today about whether they wish to sit or not. At the end of business today, we will elect such a person, if that is all right for everybody. So after coffee today we will ask for nominations and select a person to sit on the English Board for the interim period.

Referring back to where we started in terms of nominations from Council to join the English Board in the interim phase, before the new constituted English Board, or rather the point of separation, do we have any Council members who wish to put their name forward? **(David Carter was nominated by Tristan Learoyd, seconded by Yvonne Liddell. Val was nominated by Sue Kilby and seconded by Seema Agha. Vote taken. David Carter was elected)**

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar: David Carter is the Council's representative on the English board. **(Applause)**

The President: That concludes Council business. The next meeting is on 31 March.

Professor Bob Michell: Congratulations, with such an unpredictable agenda, for finishing with less injury time than most football matches!
