

English Pharmacy Board 16 September 2009

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Guidance on sectoral places for the National Pharmacy Boards election 2010

Purpose

To consider what guidance to provide for candidates and voters for the sectoral places on the National Pharmacy Boards 2010

Strategic objective domains

- An organisation that consistently performs as a regulator, professional representative leader and publisher

Action required

The English Pharmacy Board is asked to agree:

- i. guidance that will be provided to candidates and voters for the sectoral places on the National Pharmacy Boards 2010

1. Background

Governance Committee on 14 July 2009 and Council on 29 July 2009 discussed the one-off election scheme for the National Pharmacy Boards which would cover the period before the Society de-merged. At both meetings there was lengthy discussion over the vacancies reserved for pharmacists practising in each of the five sectors of practice. As a consequence the National Pharmacy Boards have been asked to provide guidance that will be provided to voters and candidates on suitability to stand in each sector.

2. Election scheme

The election scheme, as agreed by Council, specifies the following composition for the English Pharmacy Board:

5(1) Eight places on the English Pharmacy Board shall be reserved for pharmacists whose substantive practice is in each of five sectors practice

- (a) three places for community practice,
- (b) two places for hospital practice
- (c) one place for industrial practice;
- (d) one place for academic practice; and
- (e) one place for primary care/public health practice

5(2) Three places for pharmacists from any sector or as specified to meet national requirements

3. Issues to consider

Many pharmacists have had a 'portfolio' career that could have encompassed community, hospital and public health for example. It will not be possible for the Returning Officers to check the accuracy of a claim to a particular sector and to date it has been at the discretion of the voters if they consider a candidate has stood in the most appropriate sector place. Many candidates have taken the opportunity to provide a different personal statement for their candidacy to one of the sectoral places that details why they are standing in that sector.

There is already a considerable amount of background information for candidates and therefore it is important that the guidance provided is concise as well as easily understood.

An example of guidance could be:

'A candidate standing for any of the sector places would be considered by an observer that the sector they are standing for constitutes a substantive part of their current occupation'

4. Risk implications

The English Pharmacy Board has always considered its composition to be one of its major strengths as it is able to call upon a wide area of expertise around the table during meetings. The guidance provided needs to emphasise the importance of keeping to the spirit of the sectoral places but recognises that a candidate's career to date cannot be checked by the Returning Officer.

5. Resource implications

There are no resource implications.

Action required

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Martyn Schofield
Corporate Secretariat