Report to the Council from the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee (SPC) meeting on 21 September 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of paper</th>
<th>To report on the key items considered by the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2017.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Public session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>For noting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Strategy 2016-19</td>
<td>Performance objective one: To improve our performance across all our functions so that we are highly effective as a regulator.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Plan 2017</td>
<td>2017 Priority one: Continue to build a cost effective and efficient organisation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision Trail</td>
<td>In accordance with the General Dental Council Standing Orders for the SPC 2016, the SPC will report to the next Council meeting following its meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next stage</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>The Council is asked to note the report of the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee meeting on 21 September 2017.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Authorship of paper and further information | Pauline Kemp, Governance Manager  
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| Appendices       | None                                                                                                             |
1. Executive summary

The purpose of the SPC is to assist the Council in connection with the exercise of any function relating to the appointment of statutory committee members, including the selection, appraisal and performance of statutory committee members.

In accordance with the GDC’s Standing Orders for the Statutory Panellist Assurance Committee 2016, the SPC is required to report to the Council. This paper reports on the key items considered by the Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2017.

2. Items discussed at the SPC meeting on 21 September 2017

Chief Executive’s Report

The Committee were briefed on the six new members joining Council from 1 October 2017 and the new Committee Chairs who would be taking up posts.

The Committee were also updated regarding the GDC’s financial position, how Brexit may impact on the GDC’s registration numbers and the implementation of Shifting the Balance.

Work on the People Strategy was underway, which would be a significant project across the organisation.

The Committee also noted there would be a reduction in hearings suite room hire which would lead to financial savings. This was due to a reduction in referrals to Practice Committees following the introduction of Case Workers.

3. Appointments:

Panel Reappointments

It was noted in August 2018 30 members of the GDC’s Practice Committee would come to the end of their terms of agreement and would need to agree an extension to continue in the role. A further 24 would reach the end of their agreements in February 2019.

To manage the level of hearing activity expected over the next three years, there was a requirement to retain the services of the majority of Panellists to avoid having to conduct an external recruitment process for new Panellists. The Committee discussed and approved the quality assurance process for the reappointment of Panellists in 2017/2018.

Appointment of Five Fitness to Practise Panel Chairs

The Committee received, considered and approved the appointment of five FtP Panel Chairs.

New Panellists Training Proposal

The Committee considered and approved a two-day training programme for two dental Panellists who passed the selection process in 2015 but were unable to take up office at the time. This would avoid further recruitment and would allow the number of dental Panellists to remain at an optimum level for the hearings scheduled in 2018.

4. Shifting the Balance: Fitness to Practise End to End Review

The Committee were updated regarding the progress of the FtP End to End Review and the project was ahead of schedule and a number of themes had already been identified. The Committee welcomed the update and noted there was an opportunity for the Committee to be involved from an early stage.

5. Investigating Committee Feedback

The Committee received and discussed the reports for April, May, June and July 2017. The Committee discussed the importance of ongoing training and guidance for the Committee Members and Committee Secretaries.

6. Appointment of Seven Case Examiners as members of the Investigating Committee (IC)

The Committee considered and approved the proposal to appoint seven Case Examiners as members of the Investigating Committee – five of the Case Examiners had previous
experience as members of the IC. The GDC was required to maintain an IC function after October 2017 when it’s current IC members’ agreements came to an end, should there be the need to convene an IC. This would allow an IC to be convened at short notice should the need arise. Future Case Examiner recruitment would include ensuring they had the skills required to sit on IC panels, if required.

7. **Departing IC Members - Consideration to convert to FtP Panel members through the New Panellists Training**
The Committee discussed whether the departing IC members should be offered the opportunity to convert to FtP Panel Members through the New Panellists Training. A proposal would be developed and brought back to the November SPC for consideration, following calls for expressions of interest.

8. **Decision Scrutiny Group (DSG)**
The Committee received an update which included the proposed Terms of Reference and a report on the first two months of June and July 2017.

9. **Quality Assurance**
The Q2 Report for 2017 was received and welcomed by the Committee.

10. **Striking the Balance**
The Committee were briefed on the importance of Panellists updating their Declarations of Interests to ensure they declared if they also worked for another regulator.

11. **Legally Qualified Chairs**
The Committee decided to defer further consideration of this item until there was the prospect of a Section 60 order removing the requirement for legal advisors.

12. **Strategic Risk Register**
The SRR was received by the Committee for noting.

13. **Work Programme**
Development of the 2018 SPC Work Programme would start and the Committee Effectiveness Review would follow the Council Board Effectiveness.