

Communications Committee, 4 November 2010

Proposed amends to content of Annual report and accounts

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

Following feedback from Council at its 20 May 2010 meeting, it is proposed that a number of amendments are made to the content of the Annual report and financial statements (Item 16.10/83 Draft Health Professions Council Annual Report - Report ref: HPC63/10).

Background

In accordance with Article 46(1) (b) of the Health Professions Order 2001, the annual report and financial statements are prepared in a form directed by the Privy Council in its Accounts Direction. This complies with the HM Treasury guidance on the preparation of accounts for non-departmental public bodies, as if the Health Professions Council were a non-Departmental Public Body of the Department of Health. Our accounts also meet International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

At its meeting on 11 December 2008, the Council agreed that the annual report should be prepared as a word document which would meet the minimum reporting requirements set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual. See Council paper available on HPC website at: <http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/100025E016Annualreportandaccounts.pdf>

Proposed changes

The changes will include:

- removing the "Foreword from the Chair" and "Introduction from the Chief Executive" and instead including one, jointly authored introduction;
- removing the Council and Committee member biographies; and
- removing the Council and Committee member attendance tables.

The justification for removing these entries is that they make the report unnecessarily long and complex. There may also be a small cost saving by making the report shorter (it is published by The Stationery Office at a cost to the HPC). In its discussion of 20 May 2010, Council commented that this information is not included as standard in the accounts of similar organisations and as such was unnecessary. Removal of these parts of the report will continue to allow us to meet the relevant financial reporting standards. It should also be noted that attendance tables are now included in the recently revised appraisal forms for Council and Committee members.

Decision

The Committee is asked to discuss and agree these proposed amendments to the content of the Annual report and accounts, with effect from the 2010–11 report and subject to approval by Council.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None – but potentially a small cost saving due to reduction in length of report.

Date of paper

25 October 2010