

**Health Professions Council
1 March 2006**

ALTERNATES – COUNCIL MEETINGS

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

Schedule 1 Article 1(3) of the Health Professions Order 2001 states ‘An alternate member has the same functions as a lay member but he may attend a Council meeting in his capacity as an alternate member and vote, only if his corresponding registrant member is unable to do so’.

In May 2002 Council agreed that ‘...it would be beneficial to all if alternate members on Council could attend one Council meeting per year. Alternate members could not vote or proposed motions on these occasions if the full member was present at the meeting. On these occasions all Council members attending the meeting would have the right to claim expenses’.

In December 2005 the Council agreed that a paper on the attendance of Council members at all Council meetings should be considered by Council.

Decision

The Council is asked to consider the following proposal from the President:

‘That alternate members of Council in their first year of office may attend, and be paid attendance allowance and expenses for, the Council meeting and annual away day event and one other meeting of Council during that year and that thereafter alternates may attend the Council meeting and annual away day event. Alternates wishing to attend more than the agreed number of meetings would not be paid attendance allowance and/or expenses’.

Background information

Council Members’ Information which was agreed by Council on 7 December 2004 states that

‘Registrant Council members should aim to keep in touch with their alternate member, in particular giving them as much notice as possible if they cannot attend a meeting. Registrant members may also find it helpful to keep in contact with their alternate, informing them of issues that have arisen during Council meetings. Alternates will likewise find it helpful to their role if they keep up to date with decisions that are taken at the Council meetings they do not attend.

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

Per meeting

13 x £260 attendance allowance = £3,380

13 x £160 travel (average) = £2,080

13 x 8 lunch = £104

Total = £5,564

Appendices

None

Date of paper

8 February 2006

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