

## Fitness to Practise Forum – 24 April 2009

Annual Review of actions and matters arising from the last meeting

### Executive Summary

#### **Introduction**

An annual review of the actions taken by the Fitness to Practise Committees has been provided for information for the period 23 April 2008 – 24 April 2009. This includes the actions agreed at the last public meeting of this committee.

#### **Decision**

The Committee is requested to note the document. No decision is required.

#### **Background information**

Please refer to individual papers and minutes for the background to decisions.

#### **Resource Implications**

None

#### **Financial Implications**

None

#### **Background Papers**

None

#### **Appendices**

FtP Forum actions April 2008 to April 2009

#### **Date**

Wednesday 15 April 2009

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2008-04-11	a	SEC	AGD	Annual review of FtP actions 2007-	Final	Public
				8	DD: None	RD: None



## FtP Forum Actions

15 April 2009

Action point (and location in the minutes)	For the attention of	Action by (date)	Outcome
<p><b>External review of complaints literature</b>            The Forum recommended the following to the FtP Committees:            1. To approve the publication of the report as a HPC monograph.</p> <p>2. That the Director of FtP should be asked to return to the Forum with a proposal for further action.  <b>20080423 - FtP 08/07.11</b></p>	<p>FtP Committees</p> <p>Director of FtP</p>	<p>23 April 2008</p> <p>November 2008</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b>            Recommendation cleared and further action included within 2009-10 workplan</p>
<p><b>FtP annual report</b>            The Forum recommended the following to the FtP committees:            To recommend to the Council that it approve the FtP annual report 208-2009 subject to editorial amendments.  <b>20080423 - FtP 08/08.5</b></p>	<p>FtP Committees</p>	<p>23 April 2008</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b>            Report cleared and subsequently approved by July Council</p>
<p><b>Equality and diversity scheme demographic data</b>            The Forum recommended the following to the FtP committees:            1. Data is collected from registrants and complainants for a further one year and;            2 Data is submitted to Committees in April 2009.  <b>20080423 - FtP 08/09.3</b></p>	<p>FtP Committees</p> <p>FtP Committees</p>	<p>23 April 2008</p> <p>23 April 2008</p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b>            Data included within Annual Report</p>
<p><b>Case to answer practice note</b>            The Forum recommended that the Investigating Committee</p>	<p>Investigating Committee</p>	<p>23 April 2008</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b>            Note subsequently</p>

approve the practice note. <b>20080423 - FtP08/10/3</b>			approved
<b>Preliminary hearings practice note</b> The Forum recommended that the FtP committees approve the practise note. <b>20080423 - FtP08/11.03</b>	FtP Committees	23 April 2008	<b>COMPLETE</b> Note subsequently approved
<b>Equal treatment practice note</b> The Forum recommended that the FtP committees approve the practise note. <b>20080423 - FtP08/12.03</b>	FtP Committees	23 April 2008	<b>COMPLETE</b> Note subsequently approved
<b>Internet Social networking</b> The Forum recommended that the Investigating Committee approve the advice and its incorporation into operational guidance. <b>20080423 - FtP08/13.4</b>	Investigating Committee	23 April 2008	<b>COMPLETE</b> Advice approved and subsequently incorporated into guidance.
<b>Length of time to Hearings</b> Director of FtP to provide data on length of times to final hearings to future FtP Committee meetings ( <b>ongoing</b> ) <b>20080917 - FtP08/32.12</b>	Director of FtP	Ongoing	<b>ONGOING</b> – Length of time data part of regular report
<b>CHRE Review of the NMC</b> The Forum recommended that the Conduct and Competence, Health and Investigating Committees make the following recommendations for Council to consider for prioritisation: (a) That the Executive continue to take forward recommendations from within the CHRE report to develop: • Systems for the assessment, appraisal and reappointment of HPC panel members; • Updating the register so that the conditions of practice are	FtP Committees	17 Sept 2008	<b>COMPLETE</b> Recommendations approved and submitted to Council

<p>attached to individual registrants' entries; and</p> <p>(b) That the Executive continue to gather and evaluate data on timescales of cases, and that this data periodically be presented to FtP committees.</p> <p>(c) That the Executive continue to give strong emphasis to the collection and evaluation of data.</p> <p><b>20080917 - FtP08/33.3</b></p>			
<p><b>External Review of Complaints Literature</b></p> <p>The Forum recommended that the Practice Committees that the Executive should be required to take decisions for further work as a result of the conclusions of the research into external complaints.</p> <p><b>20080917 - FtP08/34.3</b></p>	<p>FtP Committees</p>	<p>17 Sept 2008</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b> Recommendations approved</p>
<p><b>Abusive, frivolous and vexatious complaints policy</b></p> <p>The Forum made the following recommendations to the Conduct and Competence, Health and Investigating Committees:</p> <p>(a) That the Committees approve the policy</p> <p>(b) That the Committees pass the following resolution:</p> <p>“That the Director of Fitness to Practise be authorised to exercise the power of the Committee to take no further action in respect of any complaint which, in the reasonable opinion of the Director, is frivolous or vexatious. The exercise of this power shall be subject to any policy which has been approved</p>	<p>FtP Committees</p>	<p>17 Sept 2008</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b> Recommendations approved</p>

<p>by the Committee on the management of such complaints. In the Director's absence, this power may be exercised by a person nominated by the Director."  <b>20080917 - FtP08/35.3</b></p>			
<p><b>Handling and purchasing of religious books</b>  The Forum recommended that the Conduct and Competence, Health and Investigating Committees approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HPC to follow the practices of the Courts within its own hearings process.</li> <li>• HPC to have copies of the most common scriptures as they are most likely to be requested by registrants and witnesses attending FTP hearings.</li> <li>• Hearings Officers to become familiar with how to handle various scriptures, to ensure no offence is taken when administering the oath.</li> <li>• HPC to have copies of the various wordings of the different oaths to be administered according to their scriptures and how these oaths are to be administered.</li> <li>• Notices of hearings should include a statement requesting registrants or witnesses to indicate if they have any preference for a particular holy scripture and further advise them to bring a copy of this scripture to the hearing if their choice is not available.</li> </ul> <p><b>20080917 - FtP08/36.3</b></p>	<p>FtP  Committees</p>	<p>17 Sept 2008</p>	<p><b>COMPLETE</b>  Recommendations approved. procedures now being followed in hearings</p>