

Health Professions Council

Amendment of Council Standing Orders

Commentary

The revised Standing Orders set out below would enable Council to transact business “virtually”, by approving resolutions in written or electronic form.

To ensure that the procedure could not be used inappropriately, any such resolution could only be circulated with the consent of the President and would need to be agreed by at least three quarters of the registrant members and an equal proportion of the lay members.

Alternate members would be able to approve a resolution if a registrant member could not be contacted but where a registrant member indicated that they were unwilling to approve a resolution the alternate could not override that decision.

Such arrangements provide an effective means of transacting business where there is no need for a meeting to take place, such as final approval of a text which has been amended to reflect the debate on a previous draft which was considered at a meeting. Arrangements for approving resolutions without the need for a meeting are common practice in many organisations, particularly companies.

The new provision is set out as SO26. What was SO25 (no casting vote in relation to Article 37 decisions) has been incorporated into a revised SO25 to avoid the need to re-number the whole of the Standing Orders and to amend internal references within them.

Decision

Council is asked to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the following text be substituted for Standing Orders 25 and 26 of the Council Standing Orders:

“25. In the event of any equality of votes, the President shall be entitled to an additional casting vote (except where the question is the determination of an appeal in accordance with Article 37 of the 2001 Order).

Approval of resolutions without meeting

26. A resolution which, with the consent of the President, is circulated to, and approved in writing or electronic form by, not less than three quarters of the registrant/practitioner members and not less than three quarters of the lay members entitled to receive notice of and attend a meeting of the Council shall be as valid as if it had been passed at such a meeting.”