

January Board meeting
Wednesday, 15 January 2025



Chair's Report

- 1.1 Our Board last met on 20 November 2024 in London. Given that it is the holiday period I am writing this report earlier than usual and so it will be a shorter report.
- 1.2 I am very pleased to let you know that the Northern Ireland Assembly has approved Geraldine Campbell as our new Non-Executive Director (NED) from 1 January 2025. Geraldine had a professional career in HIV support. Geraldine moved to a portfolio career in 2007. Geraldine has served on a number of councils of the statutory regulators including the GDC and the GOC. Geraldine is a panel member for the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland and is on the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.
- 1.3 I am also very pleased to let you know that the Scottish Government has approved Ali Jarvis as our new NED from 1 January 2025. Ali had a commercial career from 1988 to 2000 working for Allied Domecq. From 2000-2004, Ali was Director of Stonewall Scotland. From 2004-2007, Ali was Director Scotland for the Commission for Racial Equality. Ali has had lots of NED experience including being a board member of NHS Scotland and a Commissioner for Widening Access.
- 1.4 The campaign for a member from Wales will be launched at the start of January 2025.
- 1.5 Since our last Board meeting, the Nominations Committee has met two times to consider the selection of a defined contribution pension provider for staff who are not in the NHS scheme. We have been working with WTW, an independent specialist adviser, and should shortly be able to announce the provider. The new arrangements will be in place for 1 April 2025.
- 1.6 On 4 December 2024, I joined the Staff Engagement Forum to discuss the recent staff survey. The meeting was very constructive, and the survey was positive. As with last year, an outlying relatively low score covered the staff's understanding of the work of the Board. I will therefore be going to the next staff engagement day in March 2025 to talk to staff and answer any questions. Hopefully this should give a clearer understanding of our role and aspirations for the PSA.
- 1.7 On 10 December 2024, Alan and I had one of our regular catch-ups with the Chair and CEO of the GMC. We covered Physician Associate (PA) and Anaesthesia Associate (AA) regulation including the recently announced review to be led by Professor Gillian Leng CBE of these roles. We also discussed the reform agenda, our standards review and the recently launched consultation on the regulation of NHS Managers. The PSA will be responding to this consultation, and the response will be shared with the Board.

- 1.8 I am very pleased that Dame Carrie MacEwen, the chair of the GMC, has agreed to lead a session on lessons learned from the regulation of PAs and AAs at the next Chairs' meeting which will take place in the summer. The regulation of PAs and AAs started on 13 December 2024, so an update after around six months feels like good timing.
- 1.9 Lord Toby Harris, Chair of the GDC, has written to Alan and me to let us know that he will not be seeking a second term given his additional responsibilities in the House of Lords now that there has been a change of government. The GDC is beginning a recruitment process with a view to having a new Chair in place by September 2025 when Lord Harris will be stepping down.
- 1.10 I look forward to seeing everyone on 15 January 2025. I hope that you had a peaceful break over the holiday season.

Caroline Corby