

## **HEARING AID COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Strategy Executive Committee  
Held in Open Session at 70 St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BD

on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**PRESENT:** Michael Bishop In The Chair  
Prof Norma Brook  
Chris Raine

**APOLOGIES:** Peter Ormerod  
Huw Vaughan Thomas (Committee Chair)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chris Hughes Hearing Aid Council Chairman  
Sandra Verkuyten Chief Executive Officer  
Chris O'Leary Director of Policy and Communication  
Justin Parfitt Director of Resources  
Stuart Holland Modernisation and Transfer Manager

**ACTIONS**

**1. MOTION TO MOVE TO OPEN SESSION**

- 1.1 The Chair was unable to make the meeting so Michael Bishop took the chair and opened the public session of the Committee meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCES**

- 2.1 The Chair received apologies from Huw Vaughn Thomas (Chairman) and Peter Ormerod.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

**4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 was approved.

The minutes of the Strategy Executive Committee Meeting held in on 21<sup>st</sup> June were signed as a true record.

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

- 5.1 The Director of Policy and Communication (DoPC) informed the committee the minister has agreed to the changes in standard of competence.

- 5.3 The DoPC confirmed the new registration forms will be on the website by Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October

**ACTION**

**6. UPDATE ON ABOLITION TIMETABLE**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive and Registrar (CEO) gave a verbal report on the current transfer situation. Following a meeting with BERR, there was a timetabling issue regarding legislation. The CEO reported that BERR believe the date will still be March 2009. Since no decision has been made the CEO would like advice from the committee if the CEO should write to the permanent secretary as accounting officer and the Chairman of the HAC to write to both Ministers (BERR & Health)

The CEO reported on the various risks of not having a definite transfer date.

- 6.2 The Committee advised that the letters should be written outlining the concerns of the HAC.

**ACTION**

- 6.3 A member asked if there was a possibility of raising questions in the House of Lords.

- 6.4 The Modernisation and Transfer Manager confirmed this was possible.

- 6.5 The DoPC asked for the committee's advice on how to organise communications regarding the transfer date.

- 6.6 The HAC Chairman confirmed that BERR anticipated that by December it would be possible to indicate the way forward.

- 6.7 The Committee agreed to wait until after BERR had given their decision in December.
- 6.8 The committee agreed the CEO and HAC Chairman should try to arrange a face to face meeting with the minister. **ACTION**
- 6.9 The DoPC recommended a twin strategy be implemented. The first would be a continuation of the current strategy work, putting in place changes for the post-HAC regulatory framework. This work is currently progressing with an assumed abolition date of March 2009, but could be equally programmed for March 2010. This work does not include plugging current gaps in regulatory protection afforded consumers, as these will be addressed within the future regulatory framework. The second strategy would be a 'modernise to regulate' one, based on the assumption that the HAC would remain in place for a number of years and that key gaps in the current framework would need to be addressed before the repeal of the Hearing Aid Council Act.
- 6.10 A paper will be written by The Director of Resources to show the projection of 2009, outlining the issues and choices along with a budget for 2008/09 through to transition. **ACTION**

**7. REPORT BACK ON Statement of Regulatory Intent**

- 7.1 The DoPC gave a verbal report on the outcome of the Stakeholder day, held 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Feedback from the day was that it was a positive experience, helpful and raised good ideas on where the Council needs to focus its work.
- 7.2 It was also reported by the CEO that there was a large number of consumer groups attended the day which was positive. A strong theme from the day was that was that the professional body needed to do more to raise standards in the industry.
- 7.3 The DoPC will draft the Statement of Regulatory Intent and it will be ready for November Council Meeting **ACTION**

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12.1 The date of the next meeting of the committee was 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The Chairman asked if it was more appropriate to have another meeting in January to report back on BERR's answer regarding abolition of the HAC.  
  
The committee agreed to the additional meeting and the date of the next meeting is 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008

**13. EXEMPT SESSION**

- 13.1 The Chairman moved the session to an exempt session

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Signed

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Date

### Action list / Decisions agreed from the meeting of the committee 18.10.07

ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED / DECISIONS AGREED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DATE
5.3	<b>ACTION:</b> Director of Policy and Communication will post new registration forms on the HAC website	Director of Policy and Communication	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2007
6.2	<b>ACTION:</b> A letter to be written to the Permanent secretary from the CEO, outlining the concerns of the Council regarding abolition.  A letter also to be written to the Minister from the HAC Chairman, outlining the concerns of the Council regarding abolition.	Chief Executive & Registrar  HAC Chairman	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2007
6.8	<b>ACTION:</b> HAC Chairman should try to arrange a face to face meeting with the Minister	HAC Chairman	
6.01	<b>ACTION:</b> The Director of Resources to write a paper to show the projection of 2009, outlining the issues and choices along with a budget.	Director of Resources	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2007
7.3	<b>ACTION:</b> Director of Policy and Communication to write Statement of Regulatory Intent following the Stakeholder day ready for Council Meeting in November	Director of Policy and Communication	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2007