

General Optical Council (Constitution) Order 2008

Consultation Questions

Please fill in and/or tick the appropriate response.

Response form

Name	Association of Optometrists
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I do not wish my response to be passed to other UK Health Departments

I do not wish my response to be published in a summary of responses

Please indicate all the countries to which your comments relate:

UK-wide and/or

England Northern Ireland

Scotland Wales

Are you responding:
- as a member of the public
- as a health or social care professional
- on behalf of an organisation

The Association of Optometrists

If you are responding as a member of the public, please supply the following details:

Profession

If you are responding as a health or social care professional, please supply the following details:

Profession

Country of qualification

Please indicate as appropriate:

UK Other EEA Rest of World

Area of work

NHS

Social Care

Private Health

Voluntary

Regulatory Body

Professional Body

Education

Union

Local Authority

Trade Body

Other (please give details)

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please supply the following details:

NHS

Social Care

Private Health

Voluntary

Regulatory Body

Professional Body X

Education

Union

Local Authority

Trade Body

Other (please give details)

The GOC (Constitution) Order 2008

Consultation Questions

Composition of the Council

Q1: Do you agree that the GOC should consist of 7 registrant members and 7 lay members?

Support (X)

Not Support ()

Unsure ()

Comments

The Association supports this, but assumes that this is an interim arrangement which will lead to the 13 member Council originally envisaged comprising 6 registrant members (4 optometrists and 2 dispensing opticians), 6 lay members and a lay Chairman.

Further, we note that the Appointments Commission is expected to make appointments keeping in mind the desirability for the Council to be reflective of the sector it regulates

Terms of office of members

Q2: Do you agree that the Privy Council (Appointments Commission) should determine the duration of the term of office of each GOC member, on appointment?

Agree (X)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

The Privy Council should use such determinations to ensure a pattern of rolling appointments for registrant and lay members with a third being appointed every year or two years.

Q3: Do you agree that no member should hold office for more than an aggregate of 8 years during any period of 20 years?

Agree (X)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

The Association of Optometrists agrees with this restriction but, as stated above, within the context of rolling appointments to ensure continuity.

Q4: Do you agree that service as a member since April 2005 should be included in aggregating a Council member's service?

Agree (X)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

Education and training of members

Q5: Do you agree that the GOC should have the flexibility to make arrangements for the provision of education and training of Council members with another body?

Agree (X)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

Disqualification for appointment as a member

Q6: Do you agree with the reasons for disqualifying a person from appointment as a member of the GOC? If not, please specify which reasons you disagree with and explain why.

Agree (X)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

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Removal and suspension of members from office

Q7: Do you agree with the reasons given for removing or suspending members from office? If not, please specify which reasons you disagree with and explain why.

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

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Appointment, term of office and cessation of office of the chair

Q8: Do you agree that the term of office of the Chair should be determined by the Privy Council (Appointments Commission) on appointment?

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

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Q9: Do you agree with the reasons why a member should cease to be Chair?

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

Q10 : Do you agree with the transitional arrangements in respect of the first Chair of the GOC in 2009?

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

It is important that the new Chairman should be able to serve for at least four years.

Deputising arrangements in respect of the Chair

Q11: Do you agree with the deputising arrangements in respect of the Chair?

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

Quorum of the GCC, effect of vacancies etc. on the validity of proceedings

Q12: Do you agree that the quorum of the GOC should be 7

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

Seven is an entirely appropriate quorum, but there should be a minimum number of lay or registrant members in that quorum, and we suggest 3.

Q13: Do you agree with the provisions that prevent GOC proceedings being invalidated?

Agree (**X**)

Disagree ()

Unsure ()

Comments

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