

Role of the Medical Council

The purpose and responsibilities of the Medical Council under the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 are to protect the public by promoting and better ensuring high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among registered medical practitioners.

The principal functions of the Council are:

- Maintaining the register of medical practitioners
- Setting, monitoring and maintaining standards of education for registered medical practitioners.
- Setting, monitoring and maintaining standards of ethical and professional practice for registered medical practitioners.
- Ensuring registered medical practitioners are maintaining their professional competence and are fit to practise.
- Establishing committees to inquire into complaints and making decisions and giving directions relating to the imposition of sanctions on registered medical practitioners.
- Advising the public on all matters of general interest relating to the functions of the Council.

Nominee's Term of Office

A term of office will be for a period not exceeding either 3 or 5 years to be confirmed on appointment based on the overall composition of the Council. Members may be appointed for a second term, subject to Ministerial approval. The maximum duration of appointment on Council is 8 years, and no member may serve more than 2 consecutive terms in line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Time Commitment and Required Experience & Expertise

Details of the time commitment and the required experience and expertise is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Details of Council committees and links to other useful documentation is provided at **Appendix 2**.

Consistent with best corporate governance practice is it recommended that no member of a state board should hold appointment to more than two state boards.

The Council has a Code of Conduct (**Appendix 3**), which sets out the nature, intent and scope of application of the revised Code of Practice to the business of the Council and a statement of the guiding principles and obligations, as well as procedures for addressing conflicts of interest. The most up-to-date guidance on conflicts of interest is included in the Council's Conflict of Interest Policy (**Appendix 4**).

Fees & Expenses

Fees are currently paid to Council members who qualify subject to the One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle, in the sum of €7,695 per annum. In line with OPOS however, there is no remuneration for serving public servants in respect of this position. Travel and subsistence expenses arising from Council business are payable in accordance with approved public sector rates.

The appointment is subject to Ministerial approval.