

**General Medical Care Sub-Committee of the Central Medical Advisory
Committee**

Wednesday 16th March 2005, Room C3.18 Castle Buildings, 2pm

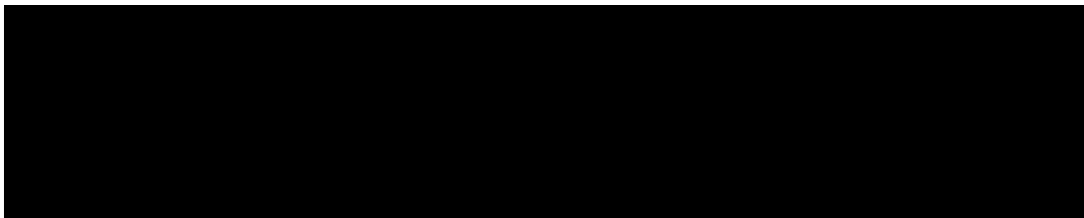
Minutes

Present: Dr Ian Carson Dr Jim Livingstone
Dr Kathryn Booth Dr Jeni McAughey
Dr Agnes McKnight Dr JE Donnelly
Professor P Reilly Dr Anna Gavin
Dr Sean Wilson Dr Huber Curran
Dr Terry McMurray Dr Terry Bradley

Apologies: Dr John Porteous Dr Henrietta Campbell
Dr PWB Colvin Dr Stephen Bailie
Dr Hassan Dr Brian Dunn
Dr Jenkins Dr Richard Manning
Dr Johnston

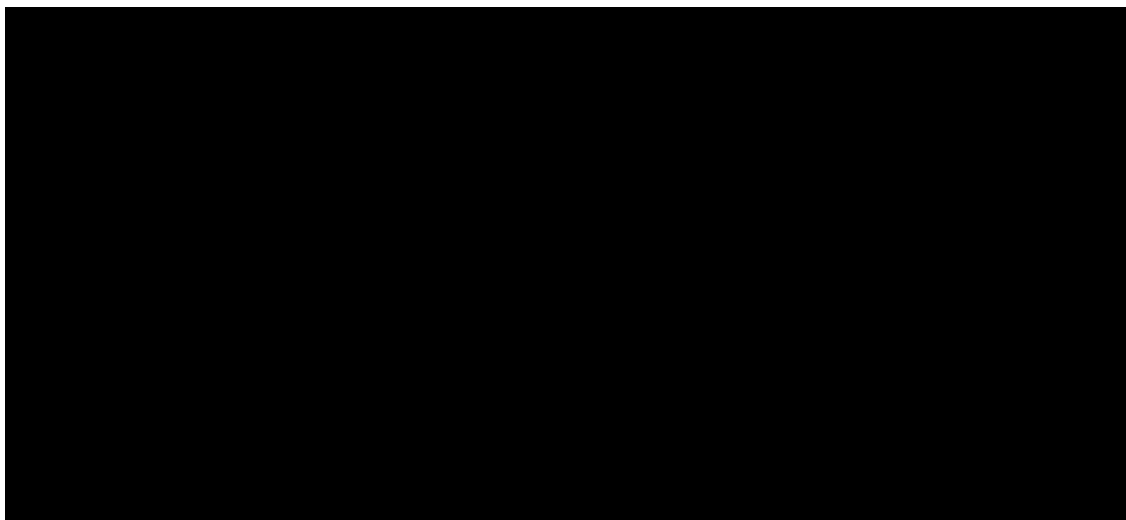
In Attendance: Miss Katrina McCrory Mr Andrew Browne
Ms Joanna McDowell Mr Michael McArdle
Dr Maura Briscoe

1. Welcome & Apologies



2. Matters Arising

Minutes of the meeting on 5th November 2004





3. Quality Standards for the HPSS

Dr Carson welcomed Dr Briscoe and thanked her for stepping in for Mr Bill who was unfortunately unable to attend.

Dr Briscoe appraised the committee that 'Quality Standards for the HPSS' were now firmly on the Departmental agenda. The paper had been sent to the Minister that day and it was anticipated that document would be ready for public consultation in early April. Dr Briscoe stated that the working group would really value opinions from this committee regarding the document. It is hoped that these generic standards for Clinical and Social Care will be used by HPSSRIA to develop quality of care across the HPSS.

Dr Briscoe also updated the group that the Respiratory Framework (as discussed in November) would be published for consultation later in the year.

ACTION POINT – MISS MCCRORY TO ENSURE THE MEMBERS OF GMCSC ARE PUT ON THE CONSULTATION LIST.

4. DHSSPS Guidance and Standards for Consent to Examination Treatment or Care

Dr Carson informed the group that although there has been no change in the legislation, the Department has published 2 documents (i) A Reference Guide to Examination, Treatment and Care, and (ii) A Handbook for the HPSS on Good Practice, in an attempt to try and standardise consent procedures.

5. DHSSPS Guidance and Standards for Consent Post-mortem Examination and Retention or Disposal of Tissues and Organs

Dr Carson welcomed Mr Browne to the meeting and thanked him for speaking to the committee.

Following the Human Organ Enquiry (June 2002), new legislation, systems and procedures have been developed which will repeal a number of previous orders. Mr Browne distributed a paper (*paper 11/05*) which gave an overview of the Human Tissue Act 2004. It is envisioned that the new procedures will be fully operational by 2006.

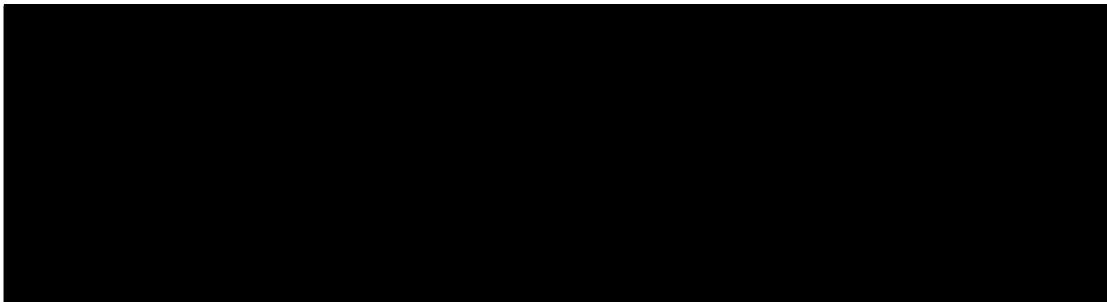
Mr Browne circulated a draft consent form for post mortem examination (*paper 12/05*). It was explained that GP's would be obliged to discuss in full with relatives the purpose of the post mortem in each case. Copies of the post mortem report would be sent to the family, the Consultant Clinician and the family GP. Relatives would have the right to request an appointment with a professional to have the results explained in full if necessary.

It is hoped that 4 area bereavement co-ordinators (1 in each Board area) will be introduced later in the year (*paper 13/05*). It is anticipated that they will liaise with voluntary and local support groups who are also very important in this area.

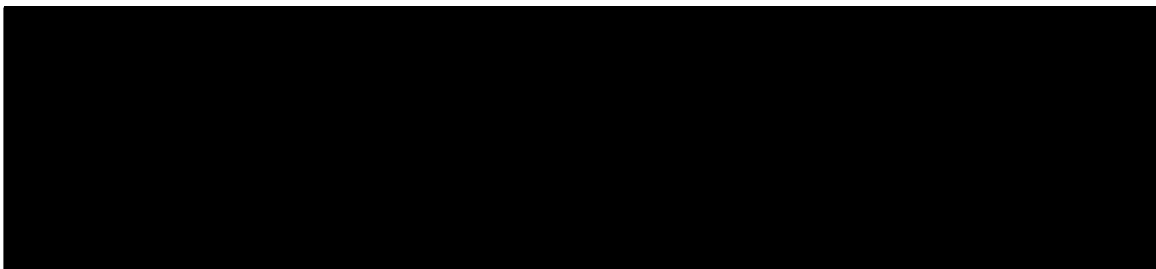
Dr Curran stated that this is a very confusing and difficult area for GP's and some practical guidance on this issue would be welcomed.

ACTION POINT: DR CARSON TO REFLECT TO DR NEAGLE AND DR MITCHELL, DR CURRANS WORRIES AND SEEK POSSIBLE PRACTICAL GUIDANCE.

6. Update on Freedom of Information

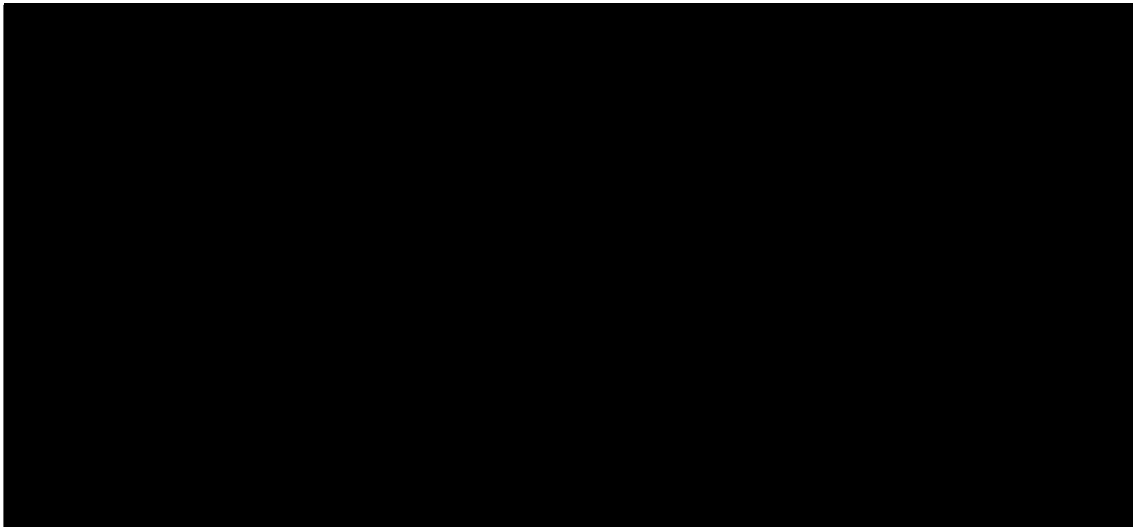


7. Update on New GMS Contract

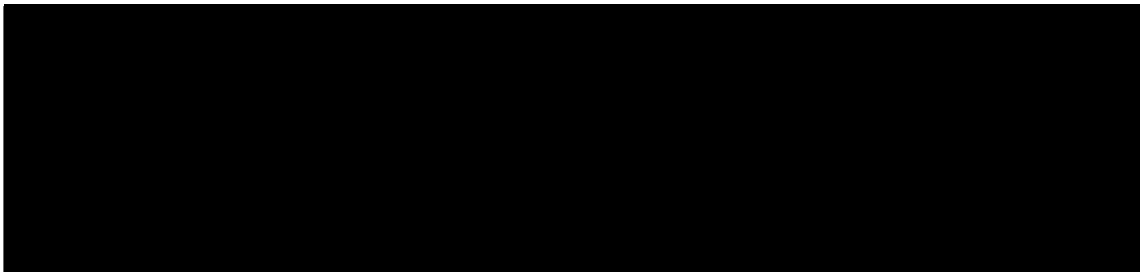




8. Prolonged Study Leave for GP's



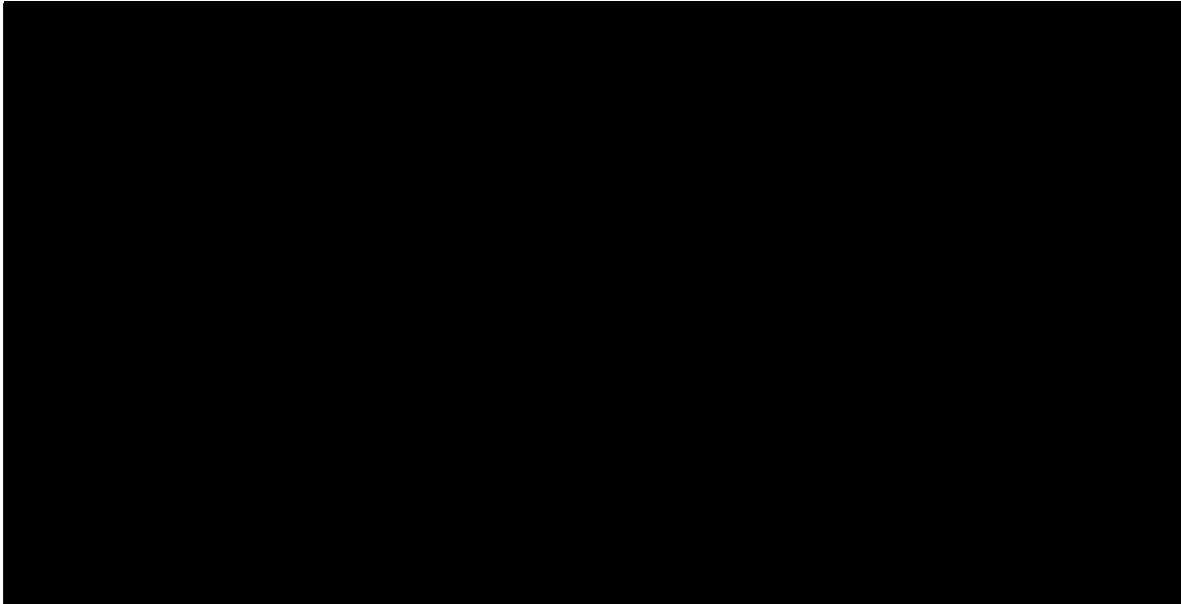
9. GP Disease Registers: Feedback to Cancer Registry from GPs re Data Accuracy Completeness



10. RCGP Practice Accreditation

Dr Mc Knight reported that following Shipman, it was especially important that practices are subject to harder and more stringent reviews in order to drive standards up. Some of the practices in the Northern Board and the Western Board have been using peer reviewers and have found it to be fairly successful. It gives Boards more confidence in the results than QOF results which are becoming a tick box exercise. Dr Carson reported that there had been an extensive debate on this at the Donaldson Review (15th March 2005) and there was strong argument for both sides.

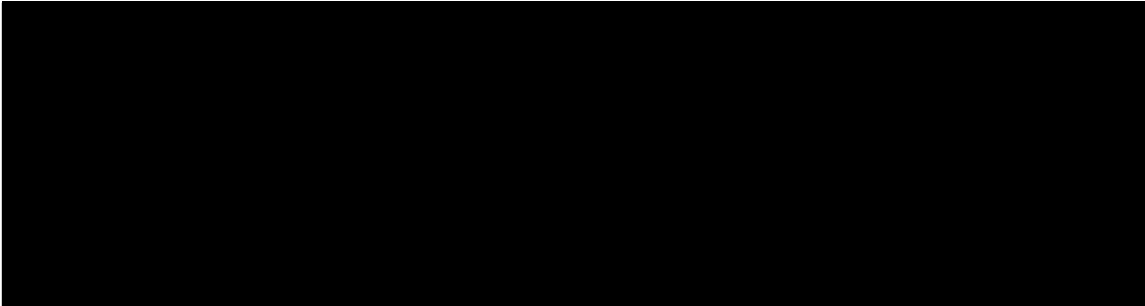
11. Review of Position Regarding Funding for F2 Posts for Doctors in Training



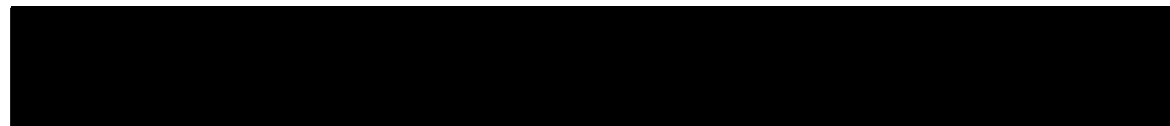
12. Any Other Business

(i) *Quality Assurance of Appraisal* – Dr McKnight presented Dr Bradley's paper on Quality Assurance of Appraisal. She recommended that the way forward was to link appraisal with quality assurance and develop the role of lead appraisers. She commented that a small number of GP's were already involved with such a scheme and that standards have been good this far. Dr Carson stated that this was on the agenda for the next Regional Appraisal Meeting and they were keen to move forward with this issue. The Donaldson Review has addressed some of the issues and will want to get a definite process in place. He thanked Dr Bradley for his very valuable work.

It was noted that Dr Claire Loughry would be replacing Dr Bradley as NI Regional GP Appraisal Coordinator.



(iii) *Donaldson Review* – Dr Carson reported that there had been 2 meetings in February/March of the Shipman Advisory Group and that Liam Donaldson has posted a request for advice on the Departmental website. Dr Booth added that the DHSSPSNI had only recently acquired the Shipman papers and they were at the start of an intensive process which would have best result from wide spread local level involvement.





13. Date of Next Meeting

