

HEARING AID COUNCIL

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

on Tuesday 22nd January 2009

- PRESENT:** Michael Bishop (Acting Chair of the Committee)
Chris Hughes OBE
- APOLOGIES:** Huw Vaughan Thomas (Chair of the Committee)
Peter Ormerod
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Sandra Verkuyten OBE Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
Chris O'Leary Registrar and Director of Policy
Justin Parfitt Managing Director & Director of
Resources
Stuart Holland Modernisation and Transfer Manager
Sarah Cottis Executive Assistant (minute taker)
Mark Georgevic Council Member
Paul McGee Administrative Assistant

ACTIONS

The Committee noted that Professor Norma Brook CBE a member of the Strategy Executive Committee (SEC) passed away recently and will be sorely missed by all of the committee and the Council.

1. Apologies for Absences

- 1.1 The Chair was unable to make the meeting and sent his apologies Michael Bishop took the chair. Apologies were received from Peter Ormerod.

2. Declarations of Interests

- 2.1 All declarations of interest are as the register.

3. Minutes from the Committee Meeting Held in Closed Session 28th October 2008

- 3.1 The minutes of the Strategy Executive Committee Meeting held on 28th October were signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 The committee noted that all matters arising from the meeting on 28th October had been actioned.

5. Update on Judicial Review

- 5.1 The Chief Executive and Accounting Officer (CEO) reported that the case was heard in court on the 13th January 2009 and the Judgement was heard in court 22nd January 2009. It was reported the Judge had found in favour of the Hearing Aid Council (HAC), but the HAC were notified that Hidden Hearing (HH) have issued an appeal.

- 5.2 The Committee requested the executive team to brief the various consumer groups and professional bodies with whom the HAC has relationships. **Action**

- 5.3 **Agreed** Following a discussion on whether to issue a press release and how this will affect the transfer the committee agreed to not issue a statement until after the court has decided whether to give leave to HH to appeal. If the HAC received significant interest from the press the CEO is to contact a public relations professional. **Action**

6. Update on Transfer

- 6.1 The Modernisation and Transfer Manager (MATM) gave a verbal report on the current status of the transfer. It was reported that the S60 order and consultation by the Department of Health (DoH) are still on timetable. A letter sent by Gareth Thomas MP and a response from Ben Bradshaw MP show commitment from both government departments to abolish the HAC.

- 6.2 The MATM reported how the HAC were handling staff retention by keeping them informed and introducing staff benefits.

6.3 The MATM reported that key areas the HAC will need to focus on will be communications with dispensers, the industry, the professional bodies and the consumers. The committee requested a strategy plan to be compiled with the Health Professions Council (HPC). **Action**

6.4 A member asked if the HAC had received advice on whether the channel islands come under the HAC's jurisdiction. The MATM reported that there has not been a response but another request will be made. **Action**

6.5 The CEO informed the committee the HPC are keen to transfer knowledge as well after the transfer and plans are being put into place to enable this to happen at all levels.

7. Work Programme to Abolition

7.1 Due to commercially sensitive information this section is confidential

8. Hearing Amplifiers

8.1 The RDoP reported following a request from Council to contact the Medicines and Healthcare Regulation Authority (MHRA) to investigate if hearing amplifiers are hearing aids. To do this the RDoP sent two sample amplifiers to the MHRA. They have confirmed that both were classed as hearing aids. The RDoP requested what the committee would like the executive team to do next.

8.22 The Committee agreed to notify BSHAA and the companies of this information and to investigate the issue further if anyone complains to the HAC. **Action**
Agreed

9. Budget and Retention Fee 09/10

9.1 The Managing Director and Director of Resources (MDDR) presented the budget to the SEC.

9.2 The CEO reported that the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) will only contribute to the HAC under extraordinary circumstances, therefore the cost of the judicial review will have to be covered under the retention fee.

9.3 The committee agreed the proposed budget and to recommend it to the next meeting of Council **Action**
Agreed

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 The date of the next meeting is 24th February 2009. The committee agreed to keep the date as it is set but to have a phone conference, if required, instead of a meeting. The committee clerk was requested to inform the rest of the committee. **Action**
Agreed

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Signed

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Date

Action list from the meeting of the Strategy Executive Committee 22.01.09

ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DATE
5.2	The Committee requested the executive team brief the various consumer groups and professional bodies with whom the HAC has relationships.	Chief Executive and Accounting Officer	ASAP
5.3	Following a discussion on whether to issue a press release and how this will affect the transfer the committee agreed to not issue a statement until after the court has decided whether to give leave to HH to appeal. If the HAC received significant interest from the press the CEO is to contact a public relations professional.	Chief Executive and Accounting Officer, Modernisation and Transfer Manager	ASAP
6.3	The MATM reported that key areas the HAC will need to focus on will be communications with dispensers, the industry, the professional bodies and the consumers. The committee requested a strategy plan to be compiled with the Health Professions Council (HPC).	Modernisation and Transfer Manager	24 th February 2009
6.4	A member asked if the HAC had received advice on whether the channel islands come under the HAC's jurisdiction. The MATM reported that there has not been a response but another request will be made.	Modernisation and Transfer Manager	24 th February 2009
8.22	The Committee agreed to notify BSHAA and the companies of this information and to investigate the issue further if anyone complains to the HAC.	Registrar and Director of Policy	ASAP
9.3	The committee agreed the proposed budget and to recommend it to the next meeting of Council	Managing Director and Director of Resources	28 th January 2009
10.1	The date of the next meeting is 24 th February 2009. The committee agreed to keep the date as it is set but to have a phone conference instead of a meeting. The committee clerk was requested to inform the rest of the committee.	Committee Clerk	ASAP

Agreements from the meeting of the Strategy Executive Committee 22.01.09

ITEM	DECISIONS AGREED
5.3	Following a discussion on whether to issue a press release and how this will affect the transfer the committee agreed to not issue a statement until after the court has decided whether to give leave to HH to appeal. If the HAC received significant interest from the press the CEO is to contact a public relations professional.
8.22	The Committee agreed to notify BSHAA and the companies of this information and to investigate the issue further if anyone complains to the HAC.
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