



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Council and Registration Board Updates



Professor Bernard McCartan appointed Chairperson of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council

Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D. has appointed Professor Bernard McCartan as Chairperson of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU) under Section 9 (1) of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005.

Professor Bernard McCartan has extensive experience in regulation and fitness to practise, having been President of the Dental Council and a member of its Fitness to Practise Committee, and Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society. He was first appointed to the Health and Social Care Professionals Council in June 2014 on the nomination of the Minister for Education and Skills. He is Visiting Professor in Oral Medicine in Trinity College Dublin and was the first Director of Specialist Training in Dentistry in Ireland. He was formerly Consultant in Oral Medicine in the Dublin Dental Hospital, Hume Street Hospital and the Blackrock Clinic. He also served three terms as President of the Irish Federation of University Teachers.

CORU is delighted to welcome Professor Bernard McCartan as the new Chairperson of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council (CORU) and we look forward to working together.

Finbarr Flood, RIP

It is with great sadness that CORU learnt of the passing of Mr. Finbarr Flood who was the first Chairperson of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council. Mr. Flood served as Chairperson from March 2007 – October 2007.

Mr Flood was also former managing director of Guinness. Mr Flood retired from Guinness in 1994, and was appointed deputy, and later chairman, of the Labour Court. Mr Flood was awarded an honorary doctorate in Philosophy by Dublin Institute of Technology in 2012.

CORU would like to extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Statement of Strategy 2017 - 2021

Thank you to all who participated in the public consultation via online survey, focus groups or emailed responses. We appreciate you taking the time to send us your comments. The feedback will be collated and will frame the content of the finished publication which will be released in early 2017.

Social Workers Registration Board Elections

Over the summer an election was held to appoint three members to the Social Workers Registration Board. Those elected to the Registration Board have the opportunity to contribute to decision making on the regulation of the profession. It's an important opportunity for registrants to be involved in the process.

The counting of votes commenced at 10am on 22 July 2016 in the offices of the IPA, Lansdowne Road. The following candidates were elected and subsequently appointed.

Category 1: Registrants who are engaged in the practice of the profession: Donal Gill and Roberta Mulligan.

Category 2: Registrants who are engaged in the management of services provided by the profession: Collette McLoughlin.

Congratulations to all. Especially to Donal Gill who has been elected Chair of the Social Workers Registration Board. You can view the results of the election on [our website](#).

One step closer to the Medical Scientists Registration Board being established

In July, the Minister for Health announced that the Medical Scientists Registration Board will be established soon. He welcomed applications from suitably qualified and experienced persons interested in being appointed to the board. This was advertised on Stateboards.ie. We look forward to working with those who are appointed and moving towards regulation for Medical Scientists.

Latest News on Registration

Growing in Strength - Current Register Statistics

The number registered with CORU has almost doubled in the past year. Although not at the same rate, the number of registrants is expected to continue to grow significantly in the coming years as more of the designated professions progress through the regulation process. Current figures are shown below.

Register	Number Registered
Social Workers	4013
Radiographers and Radiation Therapists	2110
Dietitians	297
Occupational Therapists	358
Speech and Language Therapists	342
Optometrists	772
Dispensing Opticians	178
TOTAL	8070

Close of Grandparenting for Dietitians and Speech and Language Therapists on 31 October 2016

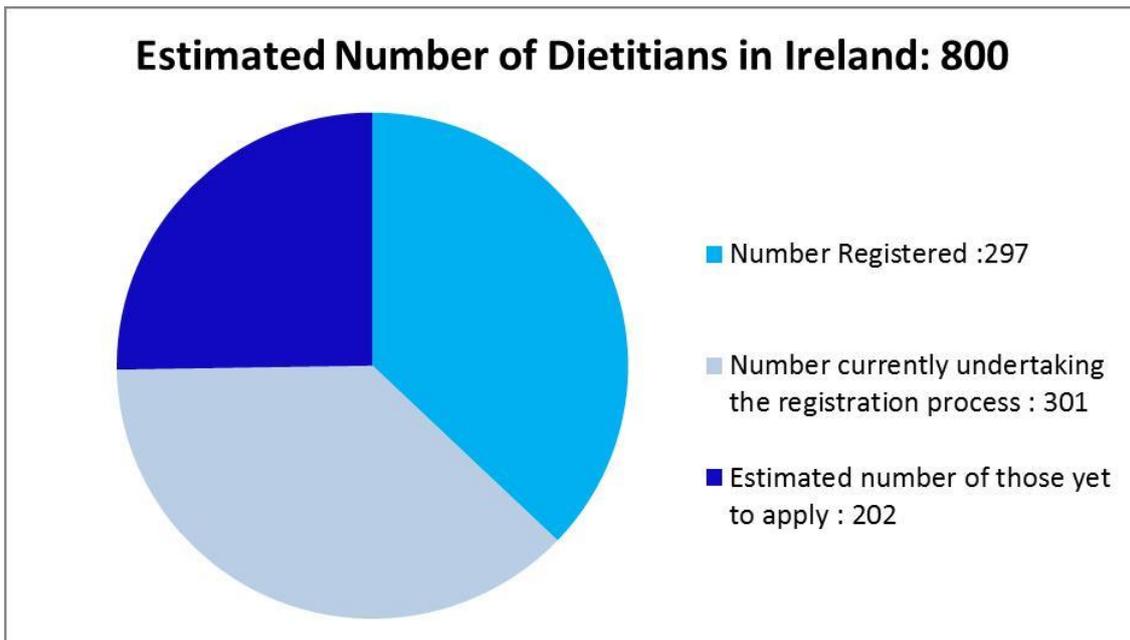
31 October 2016 is a very important date for practising Dietitians and Speech and Language Therapists in Ireland. This is the date on which the title of Dietitian and Speech and Language Therapist become protected professional titles. It is also the date by which existing practitioners must apply for registration if they are to benefit from the transition or grandparenting provisions which are enabled under our legislation.

It is vitally important that existing practitioners submit their application on or before **31 October 2016**. After this date all *incomplete applications* which were commenced but not submitted will be deleted from our systems. Any person applying for registration after this date must have an approved qualification or satisfactorily complete the qualifications recognition process in order to be eligible for registration.

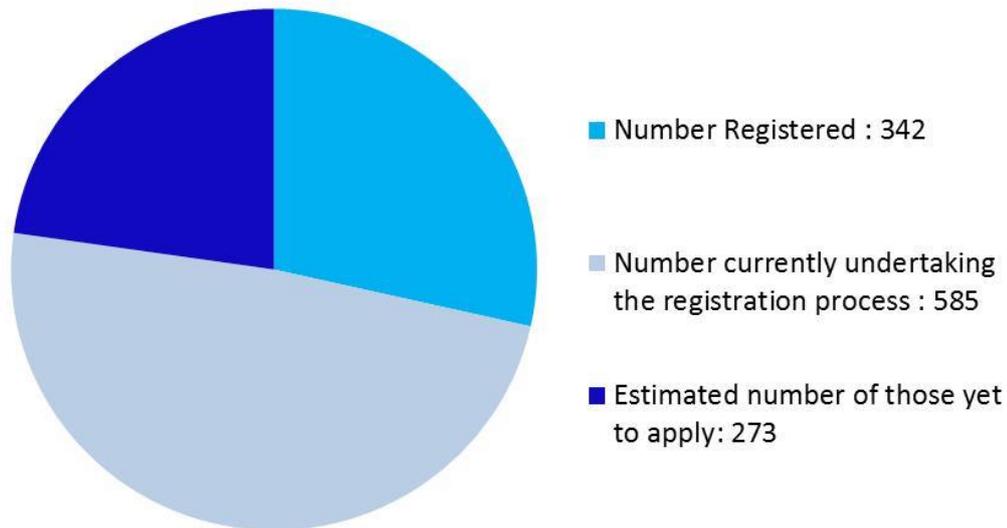
Elections

If you would like to be eligible to stand for election or to vote in the upcoming Dietitian and Speech and Language Therapist Registration Board elections, you must be registered by **31 October 2016**.

74% of Dietitians are already registered or their application is in process. Similarly, **77%** of Speech and Language Therapists are already registered or their application is in process. Get your application in today!



Estimated Number of Speech and Language Therapists in Ireland : 1200



The Opening of the Register of Physiotherapists

Preparations are currently underway for the opening of the Register of Physiotherapists on **30 September**. The bye-laws necessary for the opening of the register have been drafted and the consultation processes for these bye-laws have concluded. It is envisaged that these bye-laws will be approved by the Physiotherapists Registration Board well in advance of the opening date. All applications to the Register of Physiotherapists will be submitted online.

There is also ongoing discussions with Department of Health re practical implementation of the decision to regulate Physical Therapists; subject to legislative amendments.

Recognition of International Qualifications (Post-BREXIT)

Subsequent to the result of the UK referendum on membership of the European Union some future registrants may be querying whether their qualifications will be recognised under the EU Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive.

It is important to remember that the UK's EU membership status will not change overnight and the current situation is that the status quo will remain until the British government triggers article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

Holders of international qualifications can continue to apply for recognition of their qualification in order to apply for registration with CORU. Under our legislation recognition applications are treated in the same manner whether they are in respect of qualifications gained from within the EU/EEA or elsewhere.

There will be a meeting in London in October of Healthcare Professionals Crossing Borders which will bring regulators from across Europe to commence working on this issue and CORU will be represented at this meeting.



Registration Renewal

Radiographers and Radiation Therapists

The renewal period for radiographers and radiation therapists will open in late September and all registrants must renew by 31 October 2016.

Dietitians and Speech and Language Therapists

All dietitians or speech and language therapists who have been registered via the standard registration process must also renew registration by 31 October 2016.

Vetting with the National Vetting Bureau

CORU has been informed that the processing time for Vetting Applications has increased to an average period of over seven weeks. This may cause delays for registration applicants and is outside CORU's control.

CORU is currently preparing for the move to eVetting which allows applicants to complete and submit vetting applications directly to the NVB and it is envisaged that this will take place soon after 31 October 2016.

Important Dates 2016/2017

These are the upcoming dates to remember for Renewal and Registration:

- 30 September 2016 - Physiotherapists Register opening.
- 31 October 2016 - Dietitians - end of Grandparenting period.
- 31 October 2016 - Speech and Language Therapists - end of Grandparenting period.
- 31 October 2016 - Radiographers Renewal.
- 31 March 2017 - Occupational Therapists - end of Grandparenting period



Latest News from Education

Review Team Training

The Education Team undertook our largest review team training to date on the 15 June 2016, with 18 reviewers in attendance. This was the first training undertaken since restructuring review teams to include an academic chair, a profession specific academic, a practitioner and a public interest representative and all roles were represented on the day.

Extensive training materials and resources were developed in house by the Education Team and presentations were delivered on the day by members of the team with input from our colleagues in the Legal Department. The training included practical and group activities with reviewers not just learning about the approval and monitoring process, the role of review teams and how to write the final report but also demonstrating and developing skills in decision making and understanding of the Criteria and Standards of Proficiency.

The training day was a huge success with 100% of respondents indicating that they left the training with a clear understanding of their role as a reviewer and of the approval

and monitoring process. 100% of respondents also indicated that the facilitators created a positive, comfortable learning environment for them. This is just the first step in delivering high quality training and development opportunities to our review teams.

EUSA Internship Programme

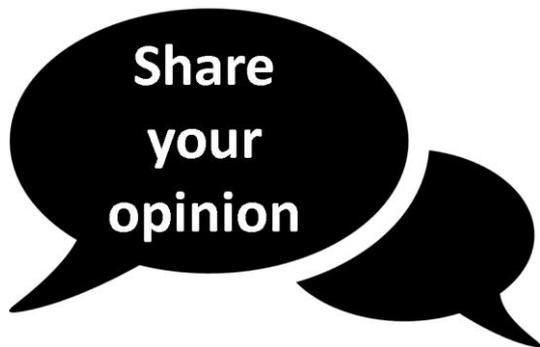
The Education Team were delighted to welcome Cody Traffanstedt on a 6 week internship from Auburn University in Alabama as part of the EUSA Internship Programme. Cody contributed to the reviewer training by assisting in developing training materials, compiling the training packs and designing a feedback form. Cody also worked with the CPD team by developing template letters and emails that will be used during the CPD audit process next year. It was a great experience working with Cody during his internship as he contributed so much to the team in such a short time. We hope to work with the EUSA programme again next year.



Working with NISCC

The Education Team travelled to Belfast to meet with colleagues in the Northern Ireland

Social Care Council in June to share learning and identify some collaborative projects that CORU and NISCC can work together on in the future. It was an informative session that allowed us to identify similarities and differences in our regulatory remit. We hope to return the favour and host our colleagues in Dublin later this year continuing our professional collaboration.



CPD Stakeholder Consultation for Occupational Therapists, Optometrists & Dispensing Opticians

Mandatory CPD will be introduced for occupational therapists, optometrists and dispensing opticians on 31 March 2017. The draft CPD Standard and Requirements for these professions are currently open for stakeholder consultation.

Both Boards will consider the feedback received from the professions during the finalisation of the CPD Standard and Requirements. The consultation process will close at **5pm on 30 September 2016**. Please visit the CORU website to access the [online feedback form](#) or you can email your thoughts to education@coru.ie

CPD introduced for Speech and Language Therapists and Dietitians

Continuing Professional Development will be introduced for speech and language therapists and dietitians on 31 October 2016. The CPD Standard and Requirements can be viewed [here](#).



Education Stakeholder Consultation Reports

The Education Unit at CORU have undertaken numerous stakeholder consultations. The reports from these consultations can be viewed on the CORU website.

[Read More Here](#)



CPD Frequently Asked Questions

CPD FAQ's have been reviewed and updated recently. There are over lots of answers here to assist registrants to understand the CPD Standard and Requirements. This is a great resource for registrants and should be the first stop for answering any questions.

[Read More Here](#)

Vacancies and Opportunities

ICT Manager (Higher Executive Officer)

CORU is currently recruiting for an ICT Manager. Reporting to the Head of Corporate Services, the role will involve managing a small team to support the work of CORU.

The successful candidate will manage CORU's ICT function including procurement and project management of the ICT systems in relation to registration, education and fitness to practise and associated support systems such as complaints, finance, HR and workflow management.

Please feel free to forward this email to any suitable candidates that you believe it would be of interest to. To find out more information and how to apply, please visit the [vacancies page](#) of the CORU website.

Disciplinary and Appeals Committee Vacancies

CORU is inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced people to be considered for appointment as members of the Disciplinary and the Appeals Committee. The committees have vacancies for Registrants of the following professions:

- Dieticians
- Dispensing Opticians
- Optometrists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapist

If you would like to apply to be a panel member please fill out the Expressions of Interest application form which is available on the [CORU website](#).

CORU Panel of Assessors - We need you!

CORU would like to invite applications from suitably qualified individuals interested in becoming a member of the Panel of Assessors for several of our Registration Boards.



For full details of the Registration Boards

that we are recruiting for and information about the requirements and experience necessary, please visit the [CORU website](#).

News from other regulators and partnerships

CORU presentation on Resilience for Ontario College of Teachers Conference

In May, CORU CEO Ginny Hanrahan and Council member Jenny Bulbulia were invited to present at the Ontario College of Teachers Conference on the subject of 'Resilience'. The presentation proved very successful. Some of the topics discussed include:

- the wellbeing of a registrant and who is responsible for fostering this
- planning for the future of regulation
- approaches to continuing competence
- the importance of work/life balance in maintaining resilience among registrants

Social Work Regulation in the UK

From 2018 onwards, a new government executive agency will replace the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in the UK as the regulator for Social Workers. The agency will be accountable to the education secretary and based in the Department for Education.

The move will see the government introduce a new set of professional standards for social workers, more “challenging” CPD requirements, and a tougher approval regime for social work degree programmes. The agency will also oversee the fitness-to-practise system and introduce post-qualifying accreditation and career development pathways.

Our CEO Ginny Hanrahan has been invited to discuss these new developments with social work regulators in the UK and bring CORU's perspective.

Welcome to Niall Byrne - new Registrar of PSI

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) have announced the appointment of Mr Niall Byrne as their new Registrar and CEO. He commenced his role with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland at the end of July.

To read more about Niall's appointment at the PSI, please visit the [latest news](#) on the PSI website

Teaching Council establishes 'fitness to teach'

New rules that came into force in July 2016 will mean any person - including a member of the public, an employer or another teacher - will be able to make a complaint to the Teaching Council about a registered teacher.

Complaints will be possible under a number of headings - including professional misconduct or poor professional performance. This is the first time such a mechanism will be available.

CORU would like to extend our best wishes to The Teaching Council as they take on this additional responsibility. We hope the process will provide assurance to the public and affirm confidence in the teaching profession in the long-run.

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