

Report of Secretary for Scotland to Guild Council Meeting 17/2/11

Group Meetings

There have been no meetings since my last report to Council.

In the Press

23/12/11 - Jackie Baillie, Labour's Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health, asked six parliamentary questions about the number of Band 6 and 7 pharmacists employed in Scottish hospitals between 2007 and 2010, the number of posts and the level of vacancies for those posts in each Health Board area.

The Scottish Government response was that "the information on band 6 & 7 pharmacists was not kept separately but the trend information for headcount and whole time equivalent of combined hospital and community pharmacy staff by band and NHS board as at 30 September 2007 to 30 September 2010 was available at:

[http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=Other therapeutic staff and personal social care%202010.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=Other_therapeutic_staff_and_personal_social_care%202010.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment)".

Similarly, "data specifically for band 6&7 hospital pharmacist vacancies by NHS board for 2007, 2008 and 2009 are not centrally held but the Information Services Division (ISD) have now put arrangements in place to collect specific pharmacy establishment and vacancy data as part of their ongoing statistical monitoring of NHS Scotland.

Information showing band 6 pharmacist vacancies by NHS board for acute and mental health hospitals as at 30 September 2010 can be found using the following link to workforce information published by ISD at:

[http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=Pharmacy Vacancies Sep 2010.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=Pharmacy_Vacancies_Sep_2010.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment)".

4/2/11 – The latest NHS staff survey states that 74% of pharmacy staff working for NHS Scotland still intend to be working within their health board in 12 months time. The RPS Director for Scotland, Alex MacKinnon, is quoted as saying, "We have also recently been working with Members of the Scottish Parliament to get better information about staffing levels in Scottish hospital pharmacy. In recent years there have been well reported shortages of hospital pharmacists and uncertainty in a sector adjusting to the new Agenda for Change pay grades. The recession seems to have attracted more people to move into the hospital sector, and combined with the slower growth of budgets the pendulum seems to have swung the other way in many parts of Scotland. We are now hearing of pharmacy graduates that can't get jobs in Scottish hospitals. This needs to be looked at further and we are working with the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists to raise awareness of this issue with the Scottish Government and Health Boards."

I have arranged a meeting with Alex later this month to clarify the last sentence.

3/2/11 - The Scottish Government is planning to shift responsibility for delivering adult community care from local authorities to health boards within the next two years. Thousands of council staff across Scotland will transfer to the NHS. Councils will merely commission the services to look after the elderly, and some 38,000 current local authority workers will deliver it within the health service. Provision of money for the budgets and salary costs is still to be considered.

AfC

There has been no update on the Review results in *Greater Glasgow & Clyde* for those staff for whom the process is not yet complete. A number of reviews have been sent to STAC to see if they can be resolved. There is a widespread suspicion that the current economic situation is having an effect on the outcomes of recent reviews.

Royal Wedding Public Holiday 29.4.11

It has been confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary that NHS Scotland will treat 29th April as a public holiday.

Unlicensed Medicines Review

Work continues on the business case for a single site for the manufacture of unlicensed medicines in Scotland.

Other

I have dealt with a number of member queries and one new membership application.

Colin Rodden
15.2.11