



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

CORU Newsletter

Winter 2015

Welcome to the fourth edition of CORU's newsletter this year. The newsletter will keep you up-to-date on the progress we are making in developing a system of regulation for Ireland's Health and Social Care Professionals.

CORU is Ireland's only multi-profession regulator, responsible for the registration of Clinical Biochemists, Dietitians, Medical Scientists, Occupational Therapists, Orthoptists, Podiatrists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, Social Care Workers, Social Workers, Speech & Language Therapists, Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians.

The role of CORU is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct and professional education, training and competence among the registrants from the designated professions.

This is achieved by setting standards in education and training, by establishing codes of conduct, ethics and performance that registrants will adhere to and by dealing with registrants who do not meet these standards.

This newsletter is only one of the ways we will be communicating with you about our progress. You can also check our website www.coru.ie for updates about our work and contact us with any queries you may have.

In this issue:

- Radiographers Registration Board Election
- Optical Registration Board
- Update from CORU's Registration Department
- Update from CORU's Education Department
- CORU Moving Office in 2016

Latest News

Radiographers Registration Board Elections December 2015

The election took place recently for members to be appointed to the Radiographers Registration Board. Nominations were sought for three electoral categories:

Category 1: Registrants engaged in the Practice of the Professions;

Category 2: Engaged in the management of services provided by the profession of Radiographer or Radiation Therapist and

Category 3: Engaged in the education of the profession of Radiographer or Radiation Therapist.

In accordance with the Health and Social Care Professionals Act, 2005 (as amended), the names of the candidates will be forwarded to the Minister for Health for appointment to the Radiographers Registration Board.

For the full details of the Election Process and the Elected Candidates, [please click here](#). The link will transfer you to the CORU website where full details on the election are published.



Optical Registration Board

2015 was a very busy year for the Optical Registration Board. Members to the Board were appointed by the Minister for Health in February and the first statutory meeting occurred in March.

Later in the year, the 31 October marked the transfer of professional regulation for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians from The Opticians Board/ Bord na Radharcmhastóirí to the Optical Registration Board. For full details on the transfer, [please click here](#).



LtoR: Owen Blee, member and Peter McGrath, Chair of the Optical Registration Board signing of the Bye-Laws.

On the eve of the transfer of Bord na Radharcmhastóirí to the Optical Registration Board a celebratory evening took place at the Custom House, Dublin to mark the occasion. The evening was historic as the inaugural meeting also took place at the same venue in 1956.



LtoR: Marie Culleton, Mairead Shields, President, Bord na Radharcmhastóirí attending the event in the Custom House.



Registration

Registration not only protects the public, there are also many benefits for registrants.

- Registration provides recognition of professional standing and international recognition and verification of education and qualifications.
- It gives clear guidance through standards of conduct and ethics which are established in consultation with the professions.
- It also protects the reputation of professions through the establishment of a complaints mechanism and a fitness to practise model.

Registrations to Date?

Below are the total numbers of registered professionals with CORU as of the 21 December 2015. This total does not include the number of applications still in the process of gaining registration approval.

Profession	Registered
Social Workers	3928
Radiographers	1589
Dietitians	126
Speech Language Therapists	140
Occupational Therapists	128
Optometrists	787
Dispensing Opticians	188
TOTAL	6886

For more information on registering with CORU, please visit www.coru.ie/registration or email us at registration@coru.ie.



Education

2015 was a very busy year for CORU's Education Department, below are some of the highlights of the work completed:

- CORU's Education Department completed 11 programme approvals for the Dietitians Registration Board, Occupational Therapists Registration Board, Speech and Language Therapists Registration Board and the Radiographers Registration Board.
- Education revised the Criteria for approval and monitoring of education and training programmes. These are the standards all programmes must meet in order to become approved and the graduates from that programme become eligible to apply for registration.
- They also reviewed the Framework Standards of Proficiency which are the standards required of graduates from an approved programme to entry the register. They are the threshold standards for the protection of the public. The Framework is adapted by each Registration Board for the needs of the profession.
- The two year CPD audit cycle commenced for Social Workers on 31 May 2015 and Radiographers and Radiation Therapists on 31 October 2015.



Recognition of International Qualifications

The Optical Registration Board was designated as the new competent authority under CORU for Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians on 31 October 2015. The Board will assess all new applications for the recognition of qualifications from outside the Republic of Ireland

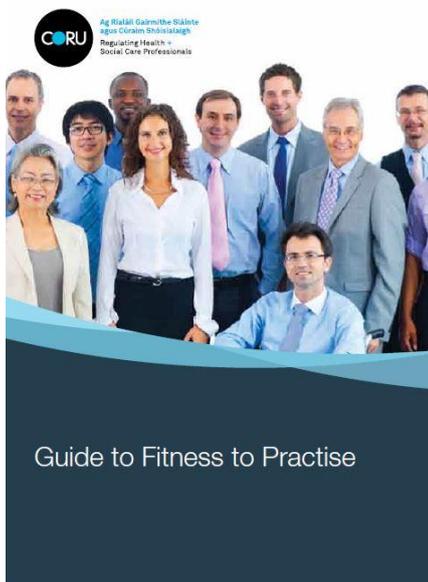
Fitness to Practise

The commencement of Fitness to Practise on the 31 December 2014 was the second stage of regulation for Health and Social Care Professionals in Ireland.

Fitness to Practise begins when CORU receives a complaint about a registered health or social care professional. It is about finding out whether or not the person is fit to practise. If he or she is unfit, we will then take the appropriate steps. If a registrant is unfit to practise, they put the safety of the public at risk.

Anyone can make a complaint directly to us about a registered health and social care professional. This includes members of the public, employers other registrants and An Garda Síochána. Registration Boards can also make a complaint.

For further information, please visit our website www.coru.ie where you may download CORU's Guide to Fitness to Practise.



Moving Office



CORU will be moving from our current offices in Beacon Court, Sandyford to Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street, Dublin 2. The move will take place on the week ending 29 January 2016.

Normal Business will commence on Monday 1 February 2016.

Council News

Ginny Hanrahan, CEO, Health and Social Care Professional Council paid tribute to four key members of Council whose terms of office expired recently.

The four members included; Martin Higgins, Muiris Fitzgerald, Jenny Bulbulia and Kristin Quinn.



Outgoing Council Members pictured with Tom Jordan, Chairperson, Health and Social Care Professional Council; LtoR: Martin Higgins, Kristin Quinn, Tom Jordan, Jenny Bulbulia, Muiris Fitzgerald.