



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Optical Registration Board

Public Consultation Report on the Return to Practice
Bye-Law

October 2015



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Introduction

About the Optical Registration Board

The Optical Registration Board has statutory responsibility for the registration of members of the profession; approval and monitoring of education and training programmes; establishing the code of professional conduct and ethics and standards of performance to which Optical must adhere and recognition of qualifications gained outside the State.

About CORU

CORU is responsible for regulating health and social care professions. It comprises the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the registration boards established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended).

CORU's role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, professional education, training and competence amongst the designated professions.

The designated professions under the Act are social workers, clinical biochemists, opticians, medical scientists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, radiographers, social care workers and speech and language therapists.



The Public Consultation Process

Background

The Optical Registration Board has prepared a draft Bye-Law on a Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Opticians.

When finalised, the Code will specify the standards of conduct, performance and ethics expected of registered Optical, and it is intended to reflect the needs of patients.

Publicising the Consultation Process

A public consultation on the draft Bye-Law was held between 30 July and 8 September 2015.

A number of channels were used to publicise the consultation process and invite the submission of observations. These included:

- An advertisement was placed in the Irish Times on Thursday, July 30 (See appendix two for a copy of the advertisement).
- A press release was placed on www.coru.ie (See appendix one for a copy of the press release).
- An online survey was developed. An email with a link was also sent to a targeted list of over 700 stakeholders, including the Professional Bodies, Trade Unions, educators and other interested parties who have previously corresponded with CORU (see appendix 3 for a copy of the survey).
- Information on the consultation along with a link to the online feedback form was hosted on the CORU website.

People were invited to participate in the consultation process in a number of ways:

- They could ring CORU to request a copy of the draft Bye-Law, and to offer feedback
- They could visit CORU's office to view the draft Bye-Law, and give their feedback in person.
- They could visit www.coru.ie and choose to complete an online feedback form, to print a copy of the form and post it, or email it to CORU.
- They could email submissions to consultation@coru.ie



Overview of responses to consultation

There were no responses to the online survey:

Respondents were asked to identify if they were offering feedback on their own behalf or on behalf of an institution or organisation.

Individual	0
Organisation	0
Institution	0

Acknowledgements

CORU would like to extend its appreciation and thanks to all those that participated in the consultation process. The report from the consultation report process was reviewed by the Optical Registration Board.

Issues emerging from the consultation process

Given that there were no responses to the public consultation process, there were no issues emerging.

Conclusion

The Optical Registration Board determined that it was not necessary to make amendments to the draft bye-law and it was agreed to submit the bye-law to Council for approval. The Council approved the draft bye-law on the 14 October 2015. The Optical Registration Board made the Bye-Law on the 21 October 2015 and submitted to the Minister for laying before the House of the Oireachtas.



Appendix 1: Press release

Optical Registration Board - Public Consultation

CORU is preparing for the transfer of the registers for dispensing opticians and optometrists from Bord na Radharcmhastóirí (the Opticians Board) to the Optical Registration Board at CORU, later this year.

The Optical Registration Board at CORU is currently working to put in place the standards that will determine how the two professions are regulated in the future.

The Board wants to hear the views of members of the professions, the public and stakeholders on a number of matters relating to the statutory registration of optometrists and dispensing opticians at CORU:

- **Optical Registration Board Draft Application for Registration Bye-Law 2015**
- **Optical Registration Board Draft Conditions for Registration in the Contact Lenses Division of the Register of Dispensing Opticians Bye-Law 2015**
- **Optical Registration Board Draft Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015**

By participating in this consultation process you are helping to shape how optometrists and dispensing opticians are regulated.

The full text of each of the bye-laws can be viewed below.

- [Optical Registration Board Draft Application for Registration Bye-Law 2015](#)
- [Optical Registration Board Draft Conditions for Registration in the Contact Lenses Division of the Register of Dispensing Opticians Bye-Law 2015](#)
- [Optical Registration Board Draft Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015](#)

or can be requested by emailing consultation@coru.ie or calling us on 01 2933160. Feedback can be provided by filling in the consultation feedback forms, which can be found at the following links:

- [Optical Registration Board Draft Application for Registration Bye-Law 2015](#)
- [Optical Registration Board Draft Conditions for Registration in the Contact Lenses Division of the Register of Dispensing Opticians Bye-Law 2015](#)
- [Optical Registration Board Draft Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015](#)



You can also email your feedback to consultation@coru.ie or send it in writing to Public Consultation, CORU, 13 - 15 The Mall, Beacon Court, Bracken Rd., Sandyford, Dublin 18.

The **closing date** for receipt of submissions is **5:00pm on Tuesday, September 8 2015**. Any submissions received after that time will not be considered.

Appendix 2: Copy of Advertisement



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Public
Consultation

Statutory Registration of Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians at CORU

The Optical Registration Board at CORU wants to hear the views of optometrists, dispensing opticians, and other interested parties on a number of matters relating to the statutory registration of optometrists and dispensing opticians:

- Application for Registration Bye-Law 2015
- Conditions for Registration in the Contact Lenses Division of the Register of Dispensing Opticians Bye-Law 2015
- Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015

Further information on these consultations including a 'feedback form' is available on www.coru.ie or by contacting CORU on 01 2933180 or emailing consultation@coru.ie

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 5pm on Tuesday, 8 September 2015. Submissions received after this date will not be considered.

CORU, 13-15 The Mall, Beacon Court, Bracken Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18.
T: 01 2933180 E: info@coru.ie W: www.coru.ie



Appendix 3: Copy of Online Feedback Form

Optical Registration Board: Optical Registration Board - Consultation on Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015

Thank you for taking the time to participate in CORU's consultation process on the Optical Registration Board Return to Practice Bye-Law 2015.

The Optical Registration Board was appointed by the Minister for Health in February 2015 to regulate the professions of optometrist and dispensing optician at CORU. It is anticipated that the Optical Registration Board will take over this function from Bord na Radharcmhastóirí later this year. The Optical Registration Board is currently making arrangements for this transfer, including preparing the registration applications process.

As part of this process, the Optical Registration Board has now begun a public consultation process on its "Return to Practice Bye-law 2015". The draft bye-law relates to optometrists or dispensing opticians seeking to join or be restored to the Register where they have not practised the profession for two or more years. It is critical that the professions, the public and other interested parties participate in these consultations. Your views and comments will play an important role in developing a system of statutory registration for optometrists or dispensing opticians.

If you have any queries about the consultation process or completing the survey, please contact CORU on (01) 2933160 or email consultation@coru.ie. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 5pm on Tuesday, 8th September 2015. Any submissions received after that time will not be considered. A report on the consultation process will be published on www.coru.ie.
Yours faithfully,

Ginny Hanrahan
Registrar
Optical Registration Board at CORU

1. Personal Information (optional)

First name:

Surname:

Email:

Telephone
number:



Q2

2. Are you contributing to this survey in (please tick one)

- a personal capacity?
- on behalf of an organisation?

If on behalf of an organisation, please specify:

Q3

3. Please indicate if you would like your name and/or organisation to be kept confidential and excluded from the consultation report.

- Include in consultation report
- Exclude from consultation report

It would be helpful if you could explain if you regard the information you have provided as confidential

Q4

4. How did you hear about this consultation? (please tick as many as apply)

- On www.coru.ie
- On another website
- By email

Other (please specify)

Q5



5. Is the language used and the layout of the draft bye-law easy to follow and understand?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text input area with a light gray border. It includes a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable text field.

Q6

6. An applicant who has not practised the profession for any period between 2 and 5 years must complete a period of updating consisting of not less than 210 contact hours. Do you consider this to be appropriate?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text input area with a light gray border. It includes a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable text field.

Q7

7. An applicant who has not practised the profession for any period greater than 5 years must complete a period of updating consisting of not less than 420 contact hours. Do you consider this to be appropriate?

- Yes
- No



Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text area with a thin grey border. It includes a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable text field.

Q8

8. Do you consider that the composition of the period of updating with regard to supervised practice, formal study and private study as set out in section 4(4) is appropriate?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text area with a thin grey border. It includes a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable text field.

Q9

9. Do you agree with the criteria for supervised practice contained in Section 5 of the draft bye-law?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin black border. It has a light gray background and is intended for user input. The box is positioned at the top of the page, below the logo.

Q10

10. Do you agree with the criteria for formal study contained in Section 6 of the draft bye-law?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin black border, identical in style to the one above. It is intended for user comments and is positioned below the question Q10.

Q11

11. Do you agree with the criteria for private study contained in Section 7 of the draft bye-law?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin black border, identical in style to the ones above. It is intended for user comments and is positioned below the question Q11.



Q12

12. Do you agree with provisions for an applicant who has been engaged in the practice of the profession outside Ireland for 2 years or more contained in Section 11 of the draft bye-law?

- Yes
- No

Use the space below for your comments

A large, empty rectangular text input field with a light gray border. It includes a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable area for text entry.

Q13

13. Is there anything you believe should be added to this bye-law?

- Yes
- No

Please provide further details below

A large, empty rectangular text input field with a light gray border. It includes a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable area for text entry.

Q14

14. Is there anything you believe should be removed from this bye-law?

- Yes
- No



Please provide further details below

A large, empty rectangular text input box with a light gray border. It features a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the top and bottom, indicating it is a scrollable area for providing details.

Q15

15. Do you have any other comments on the draft bye-law?

A large, empty rectangular text input box with a light gray border. It features a vertical scrollbar on the right side and horizontal scrollbars at the top and bottom, indicating it is a scrollable area for providing comments.

Thank you for participating in this consultation process. Your views will be taken into consideration.

If you have any queries please contact CORU on 01 2933160 or email consultation@coru.ie



Appendix 4: Return to Practice Bye-Law

[Please click on the link here to view the Return to Practice Bye-Law in full text.](#)