



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte  
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

# Committees of Inquiry

## Chairperson Specifications and Requirements

Updated June 2026

An Chomhairle um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh  
Health and Social Care Professionals Council



## About CORU

CORU is Ireland's multi-profession health regulator.

Our role is to protect the public by promotion of high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through statutory registration of health and social care professionals.

CORU was set up under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended) ("Act"). It is made up of the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the Registration boards, one for each profession named in the Act.

## Committees of Inquiry

The Committees of Inquiry are a type of judicial committee established by CORU to consider fitness to practise complaints about health and social care professionals, who were not suitable for mediation or where there was no consent to mediation. This may be a Professional Conduct Committee or a Health Committee.

CORU now invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced **non-registrants (lay people)** who are interested in being appointed to the role of Chairperson of the Health Committee.

## The function of the Committee

CORU's statutory objective is the protection of the public. The Committees of Inquiry were established under Part 6 of the Act which was commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2014. The Preliminary Proceedings Committee reviews and consider all fitness to practise complaints received by CORU and decide if the complaint requires further action and is not suitable for mediation or there is no consent to mediation. If decided, the complaint will go before a Committee of Inquiry for a hearing - a Professional Conduct Committee or a Health Committee.

Hearings will be similar to hearings before a Court or tribunal. In brief, at a hearing the Professional Conduct Committee or the Health Committee hears evidence from the



parties to a complaint and ultimately decides, having considered the evidence, if there is an impairment to practise on the part of the Registrant who has been complained about.

The Committee of Inquiry (the Professional Conduct Committee or the Health Committee – depending on the nature of the complaint) will be made up of three people:

- one registrant from the same profession as the registrant against whom the complaint is made,
- one registrant from another profession and
- one non-registrant (Chairperson).

Professional Conduct Committee hearings are normally held in public. Health Committee hearings are normally held in private. All hearings are held in-person in CORU's offices.

## **Functions of the Health Committee**

The Health Committee deals specifically with cases where a registrant's physical or mental health may impact their ability to practice safely. In its function as a Committee of Inquiry, it conducts formal hearings into such matters.

The Health Committee:

- hears evidence
- examines witnesses where relevant
- considers submissions from both the registrant and CORU

After evidence is considered, the Committee must decide as to whether the registrant's fitness to practise is impaired. The Committee must consider if there is an impairment which is a risk to service user safety or if a health condition impacts on professional performance.

The Chairperson must ensure the Committee carries out its function in balancing public safety with sensitivity to the registrant's health.



## **Responsibilities for the role of Chairperson:**

The Chairperson of the Health Committee will be a lay member of the committee.

If you are expressing an interest in being considered for the role you must have:

- at least 2 years' experience sitting on a Disciplinary Committee or similar decision-making body in a quasi-judicial function
- must not be a current CORU Council or Registration Board member as per section 51(6) of the [Health and Social Care Professional Act 2005 \(as amended\)](#)
- the ability to conduct hearings in accordance with fair procedures
- the ability to explain and justify decisions in language appropriate for a broad range of interested parties.
- the ability to compose decision(s), setting out clear and concise reasons for such decision(s).
- the ability to lead a decision-making process involving an individual whose performance was impacted by mental or physical health issues, ensuring you demonstrate a balance of fairness and compassion for the individual with the need to protect the public and maintain confidence in the regulatory process.

In addition, you must not be registered or ever have been registered with CORU or predecessor bodies, or hold a qualification that would allow you to apply to be on any register of the Registration Boards established by the Act.

The professions regulated and to be regulated by CORU are as follows; Social Workers, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Optometrists, Dispensing Opticians, Speech and Language Therapists, Clinical Biochemists, Dietitians, Medical Scientists, Orthoptists, Physiotherapists, Podiatrists, Psychologists, Social Care Workers and Counsellors and Psychotherapists.

## **Specific tasks of the role include:**

- Chairing meetings of the Health Committee.
- Attend in-person hearings in CORU's office in Smithfield, Dublin.
- Working with other committee members to consider information presented to them as the Health Committee.
- Assessing information relating to registrants' fitness to practise



- Demonstrating fairness and consistency in approach to complaints and applying the principles of natural justice and fair procedures
- Reaching well-reasoned and fair decisions and opinions within the parameters of Part 6 of the Act.
- Working effectively with others in the organisation.
- Maintain competence in Chairperson skills by attending CORU provided training and keeping up to date with changes in processes or procedures as notified by CORU.
- Reviewing and approving minutes of the Health Committee meetings.
- Discussing potential conflicts of interest with Committee members as issues arise.

## **Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:**

### **Essential**

You must have:

- A clear understanding of the importance of upholding public interest in high quality, efficient, consistent and fair regulation.
- A proven ability to contribute to objective decision-making by exercising sound judgement.
- Experience of effective leadership with a high degree of integrity.
- Good oral and written communication skills and interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate professionally and build key relationships with a range of stakeholders.
- A proven track record of effective judgement, decision making, initiative and analytical thought
- Critical thinking skills with a proven ability to grasp the detail of a wide range of issues.
- Demonstratable knowledge of the impact of physical or psychological ill health

### **Desirable**

- Experience of conducting meetings and/or drafting formal reports.
- Knowledge of the legal and/or policy context affecting delivery and development of professional practise in a health or social care setting.
- Experience or demonstrated knowledge of a similar Committee



### **Time commitment**

The time commitment for the Chairperson is estimated as being in the region of 10 – 15 working days per annum, inclusive of preparation time and training. This will fluctuate depending on the volume of complaints that are received. CORU cannot provide the candidate with any guaranteed minimum number of days per annum.

### **Training**

CORU provides training to all members of the Committees of Inquiry.

If you are successfully appointed to the role of Chairperson, training will be provided. The successful applicant will receive payment from CORU for attending training.

### **Fee and expenses**

The role of Chairperson of the Health Committee attracts a fee of €500.00 per day.

Payments made by CORU to the Chairperson may be subject to Professional Services Withholding Tax (PSWT). The Chairperson shall be responsible for all tax and deductions (if applicable) arising from the payment of the fees to him or her under this Agreement.

The role is not an employee of CORU.

Payments are subject to the "one person one salary" principle, as recommended by the Review Body on Higher Remuneration in the Public Sector in 1972. Expenses may be claimed by the Chairperson provided they are properly vouched and submitted on the appropriate Panel Members invoice.

If you wish to apply for the role, **please complete the official application form, which is available on the vacancies section of the CORU website.**

Please send the completed application form to **appointments@coru.ie no later than 3pm Tuesday, 04 August 2026.**

For further information on CORU, please visit [www.coru.ie](http://www.coru.ie)



## **Data Protection**

Please note that all personal data shall be treated as confidential in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation 2016/679). Any data protection queries should be addressed to [dpo@coru.ie](mailto:dpo@coru.ie).

If your application is successful for the role, then your personal data will continue to be processed in accordance for the specified reason of Committee membership and your data will not be held longer than is necessary.