



Public Board Minutes

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020
11:00 – 13:00**

MEETING PLACE:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Martin Heskins (MH) – Executive Chair
David Bott (DB) – Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
Jackie Proctor (JP) – Motor Insurers Bureau
Kate Fox (KF) – The Law Society
Simon Margolis (SM) – Association of Medical Reporting Organisation
Susan Brown (SB) – Motor Accident Solicitors Society
Stuart Fielding (SF) – Association of British Insurers
Surendra Kumar (SK) – British Medical Association
Nigel Teasdale (NT) – Forum of Insurance Lawyers
Brian Simpson (BS) – Chartered Society of Physiotherapists.

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD:

Leigh Evans (LE) – Head of Operations MedCo
Nadine Silverton (NS) – Data Services Officer
Mark Waughman (MW) – Data Services Officer
Jayne Bowman (JB) – Ministry of Justice.
Scott Tubbritt (ST) – Ministry of Justice
Jo Folan (JF) – Legal Advisor

SECRETARIAT – MINUTE TAKER:

Jean Gillett - MIB

APOLOGIES:

Ben Fletcher (BF) – CCO MIB

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Declarations of Interests/Gifts

No declarations

1.2 Announcements

None

1.3 Notification of A.O.B

None

1.4 Minutes from 30 March 2020 Meeting.

Minutes were approved

1.5 Public Minutes from 10 March Meeting

Minutes were approved

1.6 Outstanding Actions

The Action list was updated

2. MoJ Update

The Board was informed that the Reforms programme has been paused as most employees have been deployed to other work but there be continuity as some staff remain in place to finalise current work. The responses from the DME survey will be analysed and the analysis of the QC is almost finished. The Reforms are paused until April 2021.

The Rules Committee are still looking at the rules, although paused now, one part of finalising current work is to look at what is drafted already.

The Board reiterated the need for the rules to be published and that the earlier they are published the better prepared MedCo can be for new implementation date.

3. Risk Register

As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, MedCo have temporarily lifted the restriction for remote medical examinations to be carried out during this time as well as provide a 25% reduction to the 2020 fees and a payment plan option is available to help alleviate the operational and financial impacts on users. No risks to the availability of the MedCo system have been identified as a result of COVID-19. Whiplash implementation date has been delayed until April 2021, resulting in MedCo to revise the outstanding work plan. Work is still outstanding to update Cookies in accordance with GDPR requirements. This is to be reprioritised with CGI as Whiplash deadline has been delayed. Work to scope and cost to be carried out.

Decisions

Board reviewed and agreed the recommendation that the Residual Scores for the Whiplash Reforms, Resource and Governance risks should be reduced. Funding risk is to be tolerated during this time.

4. MONTHLY UPDATES

4.1 Audit

All audit visits have been suspended from 23 March 2020 per MedCo website announcement.

No new MRO registration applications are being accepted until further notice and the processing of existing applications is suspended from 23 March 2020.

The Committee continue to monitor use of the system, taking appropriate actions where misuse is identified.

The Committee are continuing to work with the MedCo Board to prepare for changes needed for the PI reforms that take effect in April 2021.

4.2 Operations.

The Committee continue to meet regularly to review operational issues and feedback from all user types on a variety of day to day operational issues. The Committee are currently looking at issues relating to report amendments, lack of response from experts and AUTs. The Committee continue to monitor the cases where action has been taken against experts and/or conditions that have been applied by a regulator.

4.3 EAPR

EAPR continue to work in monitoring prognosis but are adapting matters to respond to challenges presented by Covid-19 pandemic.

4.4 IT

Availability is good, the project status report shows that we are on track, although there is an overspend on the planned budget it is still within variance.

4.5 Education and Training

The Committee continue to prepare for the next CPD period including creating new training modules to support the reforms and plans are in place to review the first complete CPD year in due course.

4.6 Statistics

There continues to be a fall in search and selections they are currently down a 1/3 on what would normally be expected.

4.7 Communications

An update from the Chairman of MedCo was circulated yesterday, primarily to confirm that remote examination will continue for now.

5. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS/BUDGET REVISION

Draft Audited Accounts are now available, the Auditors will be joining the next Board Meeting.

MEETING ENDED AT 13:00