

**MEDCO BOARD MEETING
TIME:**

**WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2023
10:00 – 12:00**

MEETING PLACE:

Microsoft Teams

DIRECTORS:

Martin Heskins (MH)	– Executive Chair
Brett Dixon (BD)	– Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
David Bott (DB)	– Non-Executive Director
Jackie Proctor (JP)	– Association of British Insurers
John Howells (JH)	– Non-Executive Director
Kate Fox (KF)	– The Law Society
Susan Brown (SB)	– Motor Accident Solicitors Society
Ian Mackie (IM)	– Non-Executive Director (in part)
Nigel Teasdale (NT)	– Forum of Insurance Lawyers (in part)

OBSERVERS ATTENDING THE BOARD:

Leigh Evans (LE)	– Head of Operations MedCo
Mark Waughman (MW)	– MedCo
Nadine Silverton (NS)	– MedCo
Scott Tubbritt (ST)	– Ministry of Justice
Marie Carr (MC)	– Ministry of Justice
Steven Jarman (SJ)	– Ministry of Justice (in part)

SECRETARIAT:

Jean Abbit	– MedCo
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APOLOGIES:

Joanne May (JM)	– Gibraltar Insurance Association
Simon Margolis (SM)	– Association of Medical Reporting Organisations
Surendra Kumar (SK)	– British Medical Association
Ashley James (AJ)	– The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

1. WELCOME

MH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.1 MedCo January Board Minutes 2022

Not approved as the meeting was not quorate.

1.4 MedCo January Public Board Minutes 2022

Not approved as the meeting was not quorate.

2. UPDATES

2.1 MoJ Update

The Personal Injury Discount Rate (PIDR) Dual Rate Call for Evidence is still open, and responses are welcomed by the 11 April closing date. In addition, the process to recruit the independent expert panel is ongoing and MoJ will inform stakeholders of who is to be appointed in due course.

The Justice Committee have announced an inquiry into the operation of the Official Injury Claim portal and other related issues. MoJ are considering the published terms of reference and will be submitting written evidence to the Committee. It was likely that there will also be oral session held by the committee.

The next OIC Advisory Group meeting will be held in April and MoJ are considering items for the agenda. This is likely to include a follow up item on the issue of the medical reporting journey for claimants under the new process.

2.2 Chair and Head of Operations Update

There was an OIC Advisory Group Meeting on 20 January where concerns were raised about the medical examination taking place too soon after the accident. MedCo took an action to analyse the data and present back to OIC. MedCo also offered to co-host/support meetings between MoJ /OIC with front line medical report providers in order to obtain direct feedback on issues.

3. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The report was noted as read.

4. RISK

The Risk Committee met on 21 February 2023 and, following a thorough review, considered that the Register was up-to-date and being actioned accordingly.

5. JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Board considered the Justice Committee inquiry into the effect of the reforms on the number of minor personal injury claims to date and noted the deadline for submissions.

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3045/>

The Board decided to submit a response to highlight MedCo's role and to show continued support for future developments.

6. REHABILITATION

The Board reviewed options to become involved in Rehabilitation but wanted to seek the views of their respective stakeholder groups before making any decisions.

7. MONTHLY UPDATE

8.1 Audit

The Audit Committee continues to monitor use of the system, taking appropriate actions where misuse is identified or suspected. The Committee meets regularly with MedCo's audit team, Grant Thornton, to discuss audits of users before decision are communicated to users.

In addition to the cyclical programme of MRO audits, the Committee instructs the audit team to undertake a range of audits involving all user types registered on MedCo. The audit plan for 2023 has been agreed.

8.2 Operations

The Operations Committee meet regularly to monitor and address all feedback, queries, and complaints from all users of MedCo. Each case is considered on its own merit, and the Committee agree the appropriate action to resolve each issue.

Concerns in relation to causation and mechanism of injury are continuing to conclude and reduce, however, monitoring continues to ensure all experts are aware of the requirement and expectation.

During this reporting period the Committee have progressed work to address queries relating to amendments to reports, commenting on exceptional circumstances and tariff/non-tariff injuries.

MedCo continues to assist regulators and supports their investigations as required.

8.3 IT

The Board were advised there were no issues to note. The service continues to meet availability targets.

8.4 Education and Training

The Committee meet on a regular basis to ensure the accreditation and CPD framework is maintained and to address any associated day to day issues.

8.5 Statistics

The report was noted as read.

MEETING ENDING AT 12:00