

Meeting minute

Council Meeting – Public Session (24-26Co(35)min6)

Date of meeting:

Wednesday 17 September

Time:

10.30am

Venue:

Clerwood House

Present:

Omar Kettlewell (Convener)), Ailie Rankin, Andrew McPake, Stephen Day, Elizabeth Russell, Gerry McCormick, Graeme Cowie, Greg Bremner, Helen Happer, James Lyon, Jennifer Seed, Jon Vincent, Kirsty Mavor, Lilian Field, Matthew Moss, Mike Paul, Robert Macmillan, Susan Leslie, Abdul Elghedafi, Iain Gibson, Anne-Marie Harley, Nazim Hamid

In attendance:

Pauline Stephen - Chief Executive and Registrar (CE)

Jennifer Macdonald - Strategic Director (SD-JM)

Victoria Smith – Strategic Director (SD-VS)

Lee Robertson – Head of Digital (HD)

Lindsey Furness – Head of People and Finance (HPF)

Katie Hay - Head of Policy (HP)

Vivien Whyte – Head of Regulatory Investigations (HRI)

Zoe Wilson - Governance Officer (GO)

Nicola Coutts – Leadership Support Officer (LSO)

Observers:

None

BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda item number: 1

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Christopher Devlin, Hannah Tweed, Ian Sharpe, Nuzhat Uthmani, Sarah Sinclair, Catherine Whitley, Clare Harker, Iain Sinclair, Ann Murdoch, Aileen Kennedy, Jane Malcolm, Sandie Gordon, Evelyn McLaren.

Agenda item number: 2

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Agenda item number: 3

Intimation of Any Competent Business:

There were none.

Agenda item number: 4

Declaration of Interest:

Under agenda item number 7 Omar Kettlewell declared interest as a supporter of 2 provisionally registered teachers in the MyGTCS roll out.

Agenda item number: 5 **(24-26Co(25)Min5)**

Minute of Council Meeting held on 11 June – public session only

Documents circulated:

- Draft minute of the Council meeting held on 11 June 2025.

Agreed action / decision / amendment:

Decision:

The minute was approved.

To be actioned by:

Leadership Support

Date by which to be actioned:

19 September 2025

Agenda Item No: 6

Matters Arising/Actions

Key themes:

No matters arising.

Agenda item number: 7 **(24-26Co(25)31)**

Chief Executive and Registrar's Report

Documents circulated:

- Chief Executive and Registrar's report – cover paper
- Appendix 1 and 2

Key themes:

The concerns with the implementation of changes to the Disclosure Scotland regime were discussed. CE assured members that the issues have been raised appropriately, however, GTC Scotland is not yet reassured by the planned approach.

Members discussed the professional guides, acknowledging the complexity of the issues and the differences for teachers of school-age learners and those in college. CE assured members that the guides would be succinct, meaningful and easy to follow. The drafts will be considered by Education Committee and Council; stakeholder feedback will also be obtained following appropriate engagement.

The challenges around scheduling of Fitness to Teach hearings were discussed and members stressed the importance of making sure everyone involved is treated fairly.

A member asked for further detail of the planned refresh to the registration rules and standards in 2026 that was mentioned in the report. CE explained to members that this review would be focused on refreshing the Registration and Standards Rules – the Rules that govern entry to the Register and the ongoing requirements of registration – it was clarified that this was not a refresh of the Professional Standards.

HD assured members that contact received relating to the new MyGTCS roll-out is mostly in relation to onboarding and linked to firewalls and multi-factor authentication, not the platform itself. Digital colleagues are currently addressing these with relevant partners.

Agreed action / decision / amendment:

Decision:

Members approved the report with a view to it providing Council with assurance in relation to GTC Scotland's performance and impact and that the organisation is being managed and run by the Chief Executive effectively and responsibly.

Agenda item number: 8 (24-26Co(25)32)

Financial Position as at 30 June 2025

Documents circulated:

- Financial position as at 30 June 2025

Key themes:

No matters arising. Members noted the paper.

Agenda item number: 9

Any other competent business:

There was none.

Agenda item number: 10

Date of next meeting:

3 December 2025, 10.30 am