

**Health Professions Council
6 December 2005**

ATTENDANCE AT THE PRIVATE PART OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The Health Professions Order 2001 provides that 'an alternate member... may attend a Council meeting in his [or her] capacity as an alternate member and vote, only if his [or her] corresponding registrant member is unable to do so'.
(Schedule 1, paragraph 1(3)).

Alternate members are traditionally invited to attend the October Council meeting as it forms part of the Council's away day and this process ensures that every alternate member has the opportunity to attend at least one Council meeting per year. For the formal business of the Council meeting (as opposed to the remainder of the away day), if the relevant registrant member is present then the alternate member may not take part in the proceedings but should sit in the public gallery.

When Council meetings move into private session, the current practice is that only members entitled to be present and others, such as members of the Executive or advisers, whose presence is considered by the Council to be necessary for the effective conduct of the business, remain. All others are expected to leave the meeting and this includes alternate members if their corresponding registrant member is present at the meeting.

Alternate members receive private papers so that they may be fully informed of issues being discussed at the meeting in the event that they have to attend in place of their corresponding registrant member. However, this does not give them an automatic right to be present if that corresponding registrant member is also present.

Decision

The Council is asked to confirm the current practice that, except in exceptional circumstances, only those entitled to be present at a meeting or whose presence is necessary for the effective conduct of the business should be present at a private meeting of the Council or its committees.

Background information

None

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2005-11-24	a	SEC	AGD	Presenceofalternatemembersatprivatemeetings	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

24 November 2005

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2005-11-24	a	SEC	AGD	Presenceofalternatemembersatprivatemeetings	Final DD: None	Public RD: None

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