

SOCIAL WORKERS REGISTRATION BOARD
Notes of the 79th Meeting of the Committee on Professional Conduct

Date: 5 August 2020 (Wed)
Time: 7:35 p.m.
Venue: Online meeting via Webex Meet platform
Present: Mr. LUN Chi-wai (Convenor)
Ms. Anna CHAN Tsz-wai
Ms. LIT Ming-wai (co-opted member)
Ms. Connie MAN Yuen-ling
Dr. NG Yut-ming
Dr. TING Wai-fong
Mr. Ken TSANG Kin-chiu
Ms. Michelle TSOI Wing-tak (co-opted member)

Secretary: Mr. Eric LEE Wing-po, Registrar
Ms. Emily CHAN May-shan, Assistant Registrar

Confirmation of notes of the last meeting

1. The Committee endorsed the notes (CPC79-1) of last meeting.

Matters arising from the last meeting

Review of Code of Practice (“COP”)

2. The Secretary reported that the public consultation on proposed amendments to the COP has started in July and would be last for 6 months till the end of December 2020.
3. The promotional video has been completed and uploaded on our website. Six written submissions were collected so far.
4. In view of the latest public health considerations, the Committee consented that the five consultation sessions would be held via online platform on the dates proposed by the Secretary in September and October.

Casebook of Disciplinary Inquiries

5. Members agreed with the proposal (CPC79-2.2) in principle.
6. For the prospective members of the editorial sub-committee, the Committee agreed to nominate 7 members including (Anonymised), (Anonymised), (Anonymised), (Anonymised), (Anonymised) and two RSWs chosen from the past or present Disciplinary Committee Panel preferably one male and one female frontline worker. The Secretary would prepare a list circulating to members for further consideration and recommendation to the Board for approval.

(Ms. CHAN and Mr. TSANG joined the meeting at this juncture.)

Review of the announcement of written recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee prior to the submission to the Board

7. To follow up the instruction of the last Board meeting, the Committee reviewed the current practice of announcing the recommendations of the Disciplinary Committee (DC) in writing to both the complainant and respondent prior to the submission to the Board.
8. Members were aware of the pros and cons, and the legal concerns of announcing the written DC report before submission to the Board, they resolved to seek advice from our legal advisor.

Any other business

9. Regarding the current arrangement of the briefing session on the hearing proceedings provided by the legal advisor for the complainants who are considered to be under-privileged, there was a concern on whether any unfairness involved or possible risk of being challenged by the respondents through judicial review. After deliberation, members reiterated the rationale of this arrangement was for those complainants who were disadvantaged and agreed to retain this practice. They further consented to make it clear and transparent in our guidelines.

Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting would be held at 7:30p.m. on 13 October 2020.
11. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.

End