

OS Activity Report: January 2019

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Message from chair

Dear Members and Colleagues,

As your sole representative with the Scottish Government, your OS team has had a very productive year working with the Scottish Government and Practitioner Services on the latest round of negotiations on fees regulations and the imminent introduction of e-GOS. The feedback from Roadshows has been very positive and our aim is to carry this positivity into the next round of negotiations beginning in January 2019.

OS would like to thank its members for their continued support since we believe that in 2019 and beyond, we will have the additional challenges of the Educational Review, workforce requirements, the prospect of shared care and increasing involvement in community eyecare along with the likely challenges that will arise from the changes in the UK high street and the economy as a whole. With this in mind, I would urge all practicing optometrists and dispensing opticians to become members of OS and join us in facing the challenges that lie ahead.

OS is investing heavily in improving its communications and promoting the professions and industry as a whole. In order to continue this, we need the support and backing of the entire profession. If you have not yet joined OS, please do so by calling Emma Kellacher on 0141 202 0610.

Thanks again for your continued support.

David Quigley
Acting OS Chair

Success of Scottish Roadshows

Optometry Scotland Co-hosted a series of Roadshows together with NSS Scotland to publicise and explain the new regulations.

The Roadshows were extremely well attended and following their success there will be a live webinar in the New Year

for those who could not attend, as well as to reach remote and rural areas.



We aim to have the webinar session between mid-end of January 2019. It will be a live session and will be interactive. CET will be available. Full details will be sent to members after the Christmas break.

Attendance figures

- Stirling **80**
- Inverness **16**
- Edinburgh **129**
- Glasgow **177**
- Aberdeen **33**

We have asked for feedback from the profession as we would like opinions on what will be required moving forward with our negotiations with the Scottish Government.

Primary Services Division discussed e-payments and e-schedules stressing the importance of signing up to this in light of the forthcoming 'Sunset Clause' – and an end to the acceptance of paper claims in April 2019.

Lobbying

Optometry Scotland representatives continue to lobby and negotiate with government ministers in the interest of the future of the profession.

Since our last report we have met with:

- Jeane Freeman MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Health
- Emma Harper MSP and Vice convenor of the Health and Sports Committee
- Stuart McMillan MSP, who lead the talk on eye health in the Scottish Parliament during National Eye Health Week.

Following our meeting with Lewis MacDonald before the Parliamentary recess, Optometry has been included in the Scottish Government Prevention agenda covering points 159-169.

You can read the report [here](#).

Jeane Freeman suggested that Optometry is included in the waiting times implementation plan, and OS are setting up further meetings with SG to take this forward.

Scottish Health Awards

Optometry Scotland sponsored the Optometry Award for the second consecutive year.



Our guests included Fergus Milan and Michael Vacher from the Scottish Government, Lesley Ann Allan from PSD, Harry McQuillan Chief- Executive of Community Pharmacy Scotland and Mike Black, co-ordinator of the National Diabetic Retinal Screening Group.

The event was hosted by Fred MacAulay and the prizes were awarded by Jeane Freeman, the Cabinet Secretary for Health.

The 3 finalists for the Optometry award were:

- Emma Kelly, NHS Forth Valley
- Fraser Kennedy, The Outside Clinic
- Michael O’Kane, NHS Lothian

Nikki McElvanney, Head of Communications for Optometry Scotland, thanked all the nominees and finalists and awarded the prize to winner Michael O’Kane.

He said: "I'm honoured and delighted to receive this NHS Award from Optometry Scotland. It was a very proud moment in my career to have received this award and a letter from the Health Minister acknowledging and thanking me for my work. Optometry Scotland has redefined what it means to be an optometrist in the UK, saving the NHS & Scottish Government tens of millions of pounds through helping them recognise the under-utilise skills and ability of Optometry to improve patient care.

"Optometry Scotland works hard to promote eye health in Scotland and I'd like to encourage all optometrists and dispensing opticians to support them in representing and promoting the development of profession."



Professional Development Committee update

- Optometry Scotland is working with Skills for Health and Justice on a Modern Apprenticeship Optical Assistants course in Scotland at Level 5 and is in discussion stages about a level 7 Modern Apprenticeship Optical Assistants course which would lead on to the DO course.
The level 7 course may take longer to introduce.
- OS is also working closely with all colleagues toward the advancement of Ophthalmic dispensing in Scotland by way of reviewing the existing programme and other forms of delivery.
- OS continues to seek a reliable workforce survey for Scotland in light of the future demands on the profession. We will be asking the profession to work with us to raise the profile of Optometry and dispensing as excellent career paths.
- The West of Scotland ophthalmology review is gaining pace. There have been discussions here on Optometrists and Glaucoma Shared Care. Optometry Scotland would like to gather information on how happy the profession would be to undertake Shared Care and how payment would be expected for this.

- Abeeda Khatoon, a researcher for Optometry at GCU, is nearing the end of her research project and she will be sharing her results at the next OS Council meeting. The Optometry Scotland Council will decide whether the research will continue.
- Optometry Scotland has been asked to take part in a Scotland Policy Conference Keynote Seminar – The Future of Primary Care in Scotland multidisciplinary collaboration, digital infrastructure and workforce challenges. This will take place in Edinburgh the morning of January 31st. Further details to follow.

NEW! Members' benefits

We have introduced a range of additional benefits for members which has been well received. As well as a suite of materials highlighting your membership, and provision of regular information updates and guidance, members will now be entitled to use the affix MOptScot.

We have also been negotiating a range of exciting members' benefits in the form of discounts with retailers and other organisations. Full details will be included in your membership renewal packs, and in membership packs for new members – and watch this space because more benefits are being negotiated for 2019.

Benefits overview:

- Certificate of membership
- Affix of MOptScot
- Membership card – use this to redeem discounts from partner organisations
- Up-to-date information on the activity of OS
- Information and guidance on the regulations and triage
- Window decal highlighting membership

Membership fees breakdown:

- Full time practice: £67
- Part time practice: £33.50
- Locum optometrist: £10
- Individual membership: £5
- Students / pre-reg: FREE

OS NEWS IN PICTURES...



(LEFT)

Frank Munro presents at the recent highly-successful roadshows that toured Scotland to discuss new regulatory changes.

(RIGHT)

Dave Quigley at this year's Scottish Optical Conference in the Radisson Blu, Glasgow.

For further information on Optometry Scotland's activities or to get involve please contact us on:

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