

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Professional Standards Board (PSB)

Purpose

The Professional Standards Board is established by the Board of Trustees to advance the RSC's strategy as a professional body and uphold the standards of qualification of those who practice chemistry as a profession. It advises the Board of Trustees on strategic developments in professional and employment practices. It is accountable, through regulations agreed by the Board of Trustees for establishing, enforcing and monitoring standards for admission to categories of membership, the award of other qualifications/registrations, accreditation and professional conduct.

Delegated Responsibilities

Under authority delegated by the Board of Trustees the Professional Standards Board will:

- Establish criteria and processes for admission to and transfer between categories of membership (except Honorary FRSC), the award of other RSC qualifications and designations (e.g. Qualified Persons, CChem), the award of third party designations under licence (e.g. Chartered Scientist), having regard to regulatory requirements and ease of application by candidates. Including responsibility for biennial audit of any admissions processes.
- Provide guidance to RSC members regarding ethical and professional conduct in relation to contemporary practice.
- Advise the Board of Trustees, other RSC Boards and Committees on professional standards expectations in relation to contemporary practice.
- Advise the Board of Trustees on mechanisms for dealing with allegations against members, including responsibility for the annual audit of any allegations.
- Act as the Ethical Practices Committee in investigating complaints against members to determine whether there is a *prima facie* case to answer.
- Develop, approve and oversee collaborative arrangements with other bodies for the award of qualifications and designations.
- Develop criteria for the accreditation of university/college/apprenticeships qualifications and professional development programmes aligned to professional designations.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of qualifying activities.
- Oversee relationships with external qualifying bodies (e.g. Science Council)
- Approve, or appoint time limited working groups, to develop policy positions or approve consultation responses, ensuring appropriate expertise informs our positions.

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Composition

The Board reports directly to the Board of Trustees and shall comprise:

- Chair (Appointed Trustee, RSC member).
- 3 Elected Members, elected by RSC members from within the RSC membership
- 6 Appointed Members, appointed by the Board of Trustees, at least four of whom must be appointed from within the RSC membership.
- 3 Ex-officio Chairs of reporting Committees (must be RSC members)
 - Admissions Committee
 - Accreditation Committee
 - Registration Committee

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