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**1979 No. 112****MEDICAL PROFESSION****The General Medical Council (Constitution) Order 1979**

*Made* - - - 6th February 1979

*Laid before Parliament* 14th February 1979

*Coming into Operation* 7th March 1979

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 6th day of February 1979

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her by section 1 of the Medical Act 1978(a), and all other powers enabling Her in that behalf, is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

*Citation, commencement and interpretation*

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the General Medical Council (Constitution) Order 1979 and shall come into operation on 7th March 1979.

(2) In this Order, unless the context otherwise requires:—

“the Act” means the Medical Act 1978;

“the Act of 1956” means the Medical Act 1956(b).

*Constitution of the General Council*

2. On and after the succession day the General Council shall consist of:—

(a) 50 elected members;

(b) 34 appointed members;

(c) not more than 11 nominated members.

*Tenure of office of elected members of the General Council*

3.—(1) Subject as hereinafter provided, the term of office of a member elected to the General Council shall be 5 years.

(2) An elected member taking office on the succession day shall hold such office for a term ending on 31st October 1984.

(3) A person may be elected a member of the General Council who has previously been a member thereof.

(4) An elected member may at any time resign his office by letter addressed to the President of the General Council.

(5) When an elected member dies, resigns or otherwise ceases to be a member of the General Council before completing his term of office, a person shall,

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(a) 1978 c. 12.

(b) 1956 c. 76.

subject to paragraph (6) of this Article, be elected to hold office for the remainder of the term of the former member whose place he fills.

(6) Elections to fill casual vacancies among the elected members may be postponed and held together, always provided that the interval between successive elections shall not exceed half the period for which elected members of the General Council currently hold office.

*Tenure of office of appointed and nominated members of the General Council*

4.—(1) Subject as hereinafter provided, the term of office for a person appointed or nominated to the General Council shall be for a period not exceeding 5 years.

(2) A person may be appointed or nominated as a member of the General Council who has previously been a member thereof.

(3) An appointed or nominated member may at any time resign his office by letter addressed to the President of the General Council.

(4) When an appointed or nominated member dies, resigns or otherwise ceases to be a member of the General Council before completing his term of office, a person shall be appointed or nominated, as the case may be, to hold office for such period, not exceeding 5 years, as is thought desirable.

*Universities and other bodies empowered to choose appointed members*

5.—(1) The universities and other bodies listed in column 1 of the Schedule to this Order are designated as being empowered to choose appointed members of the General Council.

(2) The number of appointed members, to be chosen by each university or other body designated, is as set out in relation to such university or other body in column 2 of the said Schedule.

*The Succession Day*

6. The day appointed as the day on which members of the General Council elected, appointed or nominated under section 1 of the Act, and this Order, are to take office in succession to the members of the General Council who were elected, appointed or nominated under sections 2 to 4 of the Act of 1956 is 27th September 1979.

*Termination of office of members holding office under the Act of 1956*

7. Members of the General Council holding office by virtue of sections 2 to 4 of the Act of 1956 shall cease to hold office on the succession day, but nothing in this Article shall preclude any such person from election or appointment to the General Council from the succession day or from being a nominated member from that day.

N. E. Leigh,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

## SCHEDULE

## UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER BODIES EMPOWERED TO CHOOSE APPOINTED MEMBERS

Column 1	Column 2
1. Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Victoria University of Manchester, the Universities of Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Bristol, Leicester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham, Southampton, Wales, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee, the Queen's University of Belfast, the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, the Society of Apothecaries of London, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Pathologists, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of Radiologists, the Faculty of Anaesthetists and the Faculty of Community Medicine.	1
2. University of London.	3

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order provides, under the Medical Act 1978, for the reconstitution of the General Medical Council as from 27th September 1979, the day named in the Order as the day on which members of the General Council elected, appointed and nominated in the numbers provided for by Article 2 of the Order, are to take office in succession to the members of that Council elected, appointed and nominated under the Medical Act 1956. The Order empowers the universities and other bodies, listed in the Schedule thereto, to choose those members of the General Council who are appointed. The Order also contains provisions as to members' tenure of office.

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