



Ag Rialáil Gairmithe Sláinte
agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh

Regulating Health +
Social Care Professionals

Public Consultation Report

on the Optical Registration Board Approved
Qualifications Bye-Law 2018

General Division of the Dispensing Opticians Register

April 2018

An Chomhairle um Ghairmithe Sláinte agus Cúraim Shóisialaigh
Health and Social Care Professionals Council



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Introduction

About the Optical Registration Board

The Optical Registration Board has statutory responsibility for the registration of members of the professions; approval and monitoring of education and training programmes; establishing the code of professional conduct and ethics and standards of performance to which optometrists and dispensing opticians must adhere to and recognition of qualifications gained outside the State.

About CORU

CORU is responsible for regulating health and social care professions. It comprises the Health and Social Care Professionals Council and the registration boards established under the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (as amended).

CORU's role is to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, professional education, training and competence amongst the designated professions.

The designated professions under the Act are clinical biochemists, dietitians, dispensing opticians, medical scientists, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, radiation therapists, radiographers, social care workers, social workers, and speech and language therapists.



The Public Consultation Process

Background

The Optical Registration Board prepared a draft of the Optical Registration Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2018. The Bye-Law approves the listed qualifications as attesting to the Standard of Proficiency required for registration in the General Division of the Dispensing Opticians Register. When finalised, this Bye-Law will detail the qualifications approved for the purposes of registration with the Optical Registration Board.

Publicising the Consultation Process

A public consultation on the Approved Qualifications Bye-Law was held between 16 March 2018 and 13 April 2018. A number of channels were used to publicise the consultation process and invite the submission of observations. These included:

- An advertisement was placed in The Irish Times on 16 March 2018. (See appendix 1)
- Information on the consultation was hosted on the CORU website. (See appendix 2)
- An online feedback form was developed and a link to this form was included in the public consultation notice on the CORU website. An email containing this link was sent to the professional bodies. (see appendix 3)

People were invited to participate in the consultation process in a number of ways:

- They could visit www.coru.ie and choose to complete an online feedback form, to print a copy of the form and post it, or email it to CORU.
- They could email submissions to consultation@coru.ie.



Overview of responses to consultation

There were three responses to the public consultation:

Source	Number of Respondents
Online feedback form	1
Email submission	2
TOTAL	3

Respondents were asked to identify if they were offering feedback on their own behalf or on behalf of an organisation:

Individual	0
Organisation	3

How did respondents hear about this consultation?

Advertisement in a newspaper	0
Article in a publication	0
On www.coru.ie	0
On another website	0
By email	1
<i>No answer given</i>	2

Feedback was received from the following individuals and organisations:

Association of Optometrists Ireland (AOI)
Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians Ireland (FODO Ireland)
European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO)

Issues emerging from the consultation process

No issues emerged from the consultation process. All of the organisations that provided submissions in response to the consultation were supportive of the draft Bye-Law.

The Association of Optometrists Ireland submitted their feedback through the online feedback form. In response to question four, **“Please provide any comments you have on the draft Bye-Law on the Approved Qualifications for optometrists and**



dispensing opticians”, the AOI stated their support for the Bye-Law due to the “chronic shortage of properly trained and qualified Ophthalmic Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians currently in the workforce”. The AOI further stated that there will be a growing need for such professionals in the future due to demographic changes (ageing population, increasing birth rates, etc.).

The Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians Ireland submitted their feedback via email. They expressed their strong support for the draft Bye-Law which “formally recognises” the programme contained in the draft Bye-Law as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration as a dispensing optician. FODO Ireland expressed that they were “deeply concerned that prior to 2014 there was no training course for dispensing opticians in Ireland” but that they believe the programme named in the draft Bye-Law “plays a key role in ensuring the sustainable supply of a locally trained optics workforce into the future, which is why the FODO educational trust assisted DIT in the establishment of the degree in 2014”.

The third and final response was submitted via email by ECOO, the professional representative body representing opticians and optometrists across Europe. ECOO stated their support of the draft Bye-Law, as advised by their member organisations in Ireland (AOI, FODO Ireland, and IADO).



Conclusion

The Optical Registration Board considered all submissions received. The Board determined that it was not necessary to make amendments to the draft bye-law.



Appendix 1: Copy of Advertisement



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Public Consultation

The Optical Registration Board seeks the views of members of the public, the relevant professions and other interested parties on the following draft bye-law:

Optical Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2018

Information on the consultation process and procedure, including the text of the bye-law, is available on www.coru.ie

**The closing date for receipt of comments and
submissions is 5pm on Friday 13 April 2018.**

Submissions received after this time and date will not be considered.

CORU is responsible for protecting the public by regulating health and social care professionals.

CORU, Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street, Dublin 2, D02 Y729.
T: 01 2933160 E: info@coru.ie W: www.coru.ie



Appendix 2: Notice of Public Consultation on CORU's website

Optical Registration Board – Public Consultation on Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2018

March, 2018

Background

The Optical Registration Board is responsible for protecting the public by promoting high standards of professional conduct, education, training and competence through the statutory registration of dispensing opticians.

Details of Bye-Law

The Registration Board is seeking the views of the public, the professions and other interested parties on the Approved Qualifications Bye-Law for dispensing opticians.

To read the text of the bye-law, please click on the below link:

[Optical Registration Board Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2018](#)

How to submit your views

You can submit your views:

- By completing the online consultation feedback form which can be found [here](#).
- By emailing consultation@coru.ie.
- In writing to: Public Consultation, CORU, Infinity Building, George's Court, George's Lane, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 E98Y.

A report outlining the consultation process will be published on www.coru.ie following consideration of all submissions.

Closing Date

The consultation process will close at **5pm on Friday 13 April**. Submissions received after this time and date will not be considered.



Appendix 3: Copy of Online Feedback Form

Optical Registration Board: Public Consultation on Approved Qualifications Bye-Law 2018

Online Feedback Form

Thank you for taking the time to participate in CORU's consultation process on a bye-law on Approved Qualifications for dispensing opticians.

The Optical Registration Board, for the purposes of Section 38(2)(a) of the Act, approved the following qualifications as attesting to the standard of proficiency required for registration as a Dispensing Optician in the General Division of the Dispensing Opticians Register only:

Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Dispensing, Dublin Institute of Technology

If you have any queries about the consultation process or completing the survey, please contact CORU on 01 2933160 or email consultation@coru.ie.

The closing date for receipt of submissions is 5:00pm on Friday 13 April. Any submissions received after that time will not be considered. A report on the consultation process will be published on www.coru.ie.

We want to hear the views of the public and the profession and by participating in this consultation process you are helping to shape how dispensing opticians are regulated.

Yours faithfully,

Ginny Hanrahan
Registrar



1. Contact Details:

You do not need to provide this information but please do if you would like us to provide you with details on the outcome of this consultation process.

First Name:

Surname:

Email:

Telephone Number:

2. Are you contributing to this survey in (please tick one):

- A personal capacity
- On behalf of an organisation

If on behalf of an organisation, please specify the name of the organisation:

3. Please indicate if you would like your name and/or organisation to be kept confidential and excluded from the consultation report.

- Include in consultation report
- Exclude from consultation report

It would be helpful if you could explain if you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

4. Please provide any comments you have on the draft Bye-Law on the Approved Qualifications for optometrists and dispensing opticians.

5. Is there anything you believe should be added to this bye law?

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin grey border. It has a vertical scrollbar on the right side and a horizontal scrollbar at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable area for text input.

6. Is there anything you believe should be removed from this bye-law?

A large, empty rectangular text box with a thin grey border. It has a vertical scrollbar on the right side and a horizontal scrollbar at the bottom, indicating it is a scrollable area for text input.

7. How did you hear about this public consultation? (Please tick as many as apply)

- Advertisement in a newspaper
- On www.coru.ie
- By email
- Other

Other (please specify)

Thank you for participating in this consultation process. Your views will be taken into consideration. If you have any queries please contact CORU on 01 2933160 or email consultation@coru.ie.



Acknowledgements

CORU would like to extend its appreciation and thanks to those that participated in this consultation process. *(The report from the consultation process was reviewed by the Health and Social Care Professionals Council.)*

END