

Memorandum for Executive Council

SUBJECT

Medical, Dentistry and Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill

Memorandum by Chairman of the Public Health Committee

ADVICE SOUGHT

1. **Executive Council is asked to consider and advise whether the Medical, Dentistry and Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, (Annex A) should be printed, published and presented as Government Business at the next formal meeting of the Legislative Council.**

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS

2. St Helena Health Service is heavily reliant on expatriate practitioner's particularly medical officers, pharmacists, dentists and various nurse cadres.
3. The current ordinances for the registration of health practitioners on the island, namely medical doctors, pharmacists, dental nurses, and dentists, had been earmarked for review to ensure that practitioners hired to work on St Helena are duly qualified for such roles. The review is also to ensure that practitioners can be recruited from far and wide once they have been certified as qualified.
4. This Bill will amend the Medical Practitioners Ordinance 1910, the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance 1937 and the Dentists Ordinance 1955.
5. The Public Health Committee has reviewed the current ordinances with support from the Attorney General's Chambers and the Health Directorate. The outcome of that review recommend that amendments were necessary and that these amendments should stipulate that:
 - i. Practitioner qualifications are reviewed internally within the Health Directorate by the Director of Health or Delegated Officers before recommendation to the Governor;
 - ii. Evidence of Good Standing from a previous Registration Authority is obtained before practitioners are proposed for registration by the Governor; and
 - iii. That the fines and sanctions for non-registration as a practitioner before undertaking such role on the island are

reviewed upwards.

- FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
6. Regulations will shortly follow the enactment of this Bill to amend the Regulations under the Medical Practitioners Ordinance 1910, the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance 1937 and the Dentists Ordinance 1955.
7. There are no new expected financial impacts beyond the current indemnity coverage arrangements for registered practitioners from enacting this Bill. The potential liability and risk from registering unsuitably qualified practitioners will be mitigated by the proposed arrangement.
- ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**
8. The economic implications are minimal and potentially positive as this proposed amendment aligns with increased capability to deliver optimal healthcare on the island.
- CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY**
9. This Bill and policy are consistent with and aligns to the five investment policy principles for the island.
- PRINCIPLES PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT**
10. This Bill, following full operational implementation, will be expected to improve patient experience, improve patient outcomes and reduce risk.
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**
11. There are minimal to negligible environmental impacts expected from the enactment of this Bill.
- PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT**
12. The Public Health Committee has had significant input into the development of this Bill and the policy behind the Bill.
- PUBLIC REACTION**
13. This Bill may attract some positive public attention.
- PUBLICITY**
14. There is no publicity planned for this Bill. However, if Executive Council approve the decision sought in this memorandum, it will be published on the SHG website and Government Notice Board. Attention will also be drawn to it via the ExCo radio report.
- SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
15. This Bill supports all the 5 National Goals.

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**LINK TO
SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN GOALS**

16. N/A

**OPEN AGENDA
ITEM**

17. This item is recommended for the open agenda

DT

Corporate Support
Corporate Services

06th December 2018

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