

The College

Dissemination of College reports and their publication in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*

The Executive and Finance Committee has recently reconsidered the procedures for the dissemination of College reports, and the criteria for their publication in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*.

The amount of space devoted to College documents in the *Bulletin* has increased substantially in recent years. However, not all documents or reports are of interest to all, or even a majority, of College members, and their automatic publication *in extenso* in the *Bulletin* is not always the most effective way of making them available to those directly concerned. It is therefore proposed to introduce a more flexible publication policy, which will consist of the following three options:

- (a) publication of the entire document in the *Bulletin*
- (b) publication as a separate report, or
- (c) publication of a summary in the *Bulletin*, the full report being available to members on application.

The Council shall decide upon the appropriate option to be adopted in each case.

It is expected that the authors of all reports should provide a summary of their report. Where option (c) is adopted, the Deputy Registrar will review this summary, in order to ensure consistency with other College documents.

If a member of the College requests the full text of a document which has been summarised in the *Bulletin*, this would be supplied, with appropriate charge.

Members are reminded that the College Library is able to provide information regarding any College policy statement. A printed register of all College policy statements appearing in the *Bulletin* (*Index to Statements, Guidelines and Policy Documents of the College*) is available from the Publications Department. In addition, a list of titles of recently published College Reports will appear biannually in the *Bulletin*.

*Approved by Council
October 1992*

Payment of expenses of practitioners engaged in College and related activities

I should like to draw to the attention of members working in England and Wales the following circular issued by the Department of Health on 17 November 1972, concerning the payment of expenses of practitioners engaged in college activities. (See opposite page). A recent letter from the NHS Management Executive confirms that '*the circular of 17 November 1972 still reflects departmental policy*', and states that the Department offers its full support in any approach made to health authorities. Furthermore, the Department of Health's advice to health authorities and trusts regarding the '*expenses of practitioners engaged on official college business*' is that '*it is reasonable to give assistance with time-off and expenses*'.

Members are encouraged to bring this to the attention of their employing health authorities and trusts in order to support their claims for the payment of expenses. Members of the College joining new

Committees are advised to approach their employing health authorities or trusts at the outset, to confirm that this directive, together with the more recent statement, will be honoured. In so doing, members are advised to emphasise that the objectives of the College, as defined in paragraph 3 of the Charter, are to '*advance the science and practice of psychiatry and related subjects; further public education therein;*' and to '*promote study and research work in psychiatry. . .*'.

I would urge members to bring to my attention any cases where the payment of expenses relating to attendance at a College meeting or other College-related activity is refused, enclosing copies of the correspondence with the employing health authority or trust, so that the matter may be taken up with the NHS Management Executive.

November 1992

Dr W. D. BOYD
Treasurer