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RECEIVED

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18 February 2019

Dear Mr Hendrick

Thank you for your recent letter, which we received via Unison. It was circulated to Council members prior to their meeting so that it could be included in our considerations. However, I thought it might be useful to set out the context to our proposals.

In 2018, we ran a public consultation on proposals to increase our registration fee by £16 to £106 per year, with similar increases to the other fees we charge. Even with these increases, our fees would remain the lowest of all the independent statutory health and care regulators, as you can see from the table overleaf. We receive no regular funding from the Government or other sources.

To inform our decision making, we undertook a detailed analysis of our income and expenditure, including an assessment of the impact of inflation on our current and future costs. This identified savings in our operations as well as income generation opportunities to minimise the impact of the proposed increases.

We received 2,398 responses to the consultation and are very appreciative of the time it took people to consider our proposals. After very careful consideration of all these responses, the Council agreed to the increases proposed. In doing so, Council recognised that the majority of respondents disagreed with our proposal to increase the registration fee and explored the concerns of many organisations and the individual registrants who responded. Council also committed to continuing to identify cost savings wherever possible and further explore income generation opportunities.

We are very sensitive to the concerns of respondents and recognise the strength of views expressed. We are also very aware of the economic context in which our registrants and the HCPC operate. In reaching their decision Council agreed the need to safeguard HCPC's financial sustainability, to ensure that it can continue to fulfil its statutory role to protect the public, and its commitment to meet the expectations of stakeholders.

The proposals mean we can continue to invest in our regulatory performance, specifically our efforts to reduce the length of time fitness to practise investigations take and develop our registration services to meet modern-day expectations. It also enables us to meet the Council's commitment to move away from the existing reactive model of regulation, to one where we proactively help to prevent problems arising in registrants' professional practice, thus reducing the burden and stress for all involved in the process.

I was pleased to see that representatives from Unison were in attendance at our meeting and able to witness the very vigorous and rigorous discussion Council had. The eventual decision was taken with a deep and heartfelt acknowledgement of the impact on registrants, but also in the circumstances that it was equally difficult to reach any other conclusion.

If you would like to discuss these proposals in more detail or need a further briefing, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Cohen
Deputy Chair

Comparison of renewal fees across independent UK health and care professional regulators

Annual renewal fee	Regulator	Number of registrants
£890 (dentists)	General Dental Council (GDC)	99,347
£800	General Chiropractic Council (GCC)	3,255
£570	General Osteopathic Council (GOsC)	5,288
£398	Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI)	2,502
£390 (registration with a licence to practise)	General Medical Council (GMC)	289,029
£340	General Optical Council (GOC)	30,759
£250 (pharmacists)	General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC)	78,625
£120	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)	690,278
£106	Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)	361,061