



12th October 2007

Press Release

Pharmacy bodies unite to reject RPSGB proposals to increase premises fees

In a joint letter to the Department of Health the national bodies representing the owners of community pharmacies- PSNC, NPA, CCA and AIMp- have firmly rejected the proposals for increasing pharmacy registration fees made by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

The proposal to increase personal retention fees by 50% and premises retention fees by 55% is unacceptable for the following reasons:

- Before any increase whatsoever can be accepted, the Society must furnish better information about its activities and the use to which funding will be put;
- The Society's analysis that there is an imbalance between pharmacists fees and premises fees is fundamentally flawed and inappropriate;
- The proposals would be a double blow on small pharmacy owners. Not only will they be subjected to the 50% increase in personal retention fees (which the bodies have also opposed) but in such businesses the pharmacist is the owner and will additionally therefore have to suffer the 55% increase in premises retention fees;
- The Society's arguments on the costs of the enforcement of the Poisons Act 1972 and the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 is questioned. But, in any event, this should not form any part of the fees due from pharmacy owners;
- The need for routine visits by inspectors to enforce certain provisions under the Medicines Act, and ensuing costs, is challenged. The calculations and assumptions used by the Society regarding the increase in the number of Inspectors are unclear;
- The Society's attempts to suggest the increase is of no real consequence to pharmacy owners is firmly rejected; as it was last year when the same comment was made in relation to a 9.3% increase. The Society, like pharmacy owners, should be making economies to minimise charges to both members and pharmacy owners;
- There is fundamental opposition to premises fees funding any part of the cost of demerger, the establishment of a General Pharmaceutical Council and a body akin to a Royal College. These costs should be fully met by Government

The joint letter concludes that pharmacy bodies might be willing to accept that for 2008, an increase in the fee of no more than the GDP deflator could be applied, but only if the Society can provide satisfactory evidence to support such an increase. A copy of the full response is attached.

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