
Update on fees consultation

Executive Summary

This paper provides Council with a short update on the progress of the fees consultation process and on what happens next, following the closure of the consultation on 14 June 2024.

At its meeting in March 2024, the Council agreed that the HCPC should consult on a £6.98 increase in registration fees targeted at coming into effect from April 2025, as the minimum necessary amount to maintain our financial sustainability, as part of a medium-term framework for regular fee reviews.

The consultation opened on 10 April and ran for ten weeks, up to 14 June 2024. The consultation document can be found [here](#). It set out the rationale for the proposed increase, financial background information, the proposed new fees, an equalities impact assessment (EIA) and other supporting information.

A total of 1,040 responses to the consultation were received, of which 98% came from individuals and 2% from organisations. 98% of individuals who responded to the consultation were HCPC registrants.

The consultation asked three main questions: one to determine whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the rationale behind the proposal, one to determine whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the proposed increase itself and one to assess the equalities impacts of the proposals. Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments for each of these questions.

All respondents provided answers to the first two questions, with 369 respondents providing additional comments in relation to the rationale, and 331 respondents providing additional comments on the proposal. 197 responses were received to the question about equalities impacts, with 89 respondents leaving comments that were viable for analysis*.

We will carefully consider all feedback received to the consultation which will be taken into account in the Council's decision-making process.

Previous consideration	The Council agreed to launch the consultation on fees at its meeting in March 2024. The Council also previously discussed the consultation in February 2024.
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* Some respondents answered either 'N/A', 'no' or similar or left the space blank.

	The Education and Training Committee considered the consultation at its meeting in June 2024 and submitted a response.
Decision	The Council is asked to note the update and the next steps.
Next steps	The Council will receive full advice and recommendations from the Executive in light of the consultation responses. At its meeting in September 2024, the Council will be asked to make a decision on revised fees and on any other relevant matters, after which the HCPC will publish its response to the consultation. The HCPC will communicate the Council's decision to stakeholders and, subject to what the Council decides, will begin seeking ministerial and parliamentary approval for an order to be laid in the UK and Scottish parliaments, to give effect to the updated fees.
Strategic priority	Strategic priority 5: Build a resilient, healthy, capable and sustainable organisation
Financial and resource implications	The consultation document sets out the financial analysis underpinning the fees proposals. Work to implement any proposed revised fees would be managed within existing resource.
EDI impact and Welsh Language Standards	<p>The consultation document was accompanied by an EIA which included considerations of the impact on Welsh language. The consultation asked respondents to review the EIA and identify any additional impacts.</p> <p>197 people responded to this question, with 89 responses viable for analysis (a number of people answered 'N/A', 'no comment' or similar). Issues identified in the comments will be included in the consultation analysis and in the updated EIA.</p> <p>No issues in relation to the impact on Welsh language were highlighted in the consultation feedback.</p>
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