Council meeting 10 February 2011 02.11/C/03

Public business

**Education-related fees for 2012**

**Purpose**
To consider education-related fees for 2012 and agree them for consultation.

**Recommendations**

The Council is asked to agree:

i. an inflationary uplift of 4% for education-related fees for 2012.

ii. fees for consultation.

1.0 **Introduction**

1.1 As well as levying fees for registration, the GPhC also charges for pre-registration functions and for evaluating non-EEA overseas pharmacists wanting to enrol on an OSPAP conversion course. This paper proposes 2012 fees for those functions.

1.2 These fees are not included in the GPhC’s Fees Rules and are levied under Article 65 (1) of the *Pharmacy Order* 2010.

2.0 **Key considerations**

2.1 At the time of writing inflation was 4.7% and rising; one prediction is that it could reach 8% towards the middle of the year. Being mindful of the current economic climate, a below inflation uplift of 4% is proposed for education-related fees.

2.2 2011 fees are:

1. Overseas qualified pharmacists – examination of documents and
conducting a pre overseas pharmacist assessment programme (OSPAP) assessment (where relevant): £687
2. Entry to the Pre-registration scheme: £174
3. Registration Assessment entry fee: £206
4. Registration Assessment late entry fee: £412
5. Manual remarking of Assessment: £110

2.3 With an uplift of 4%, 2012 fees would be:

1. Overseas qualified pharmacists – examination of documents and conducting a pre overseas pharmacist assessment programme (OSPAP) assessment (where relevant): £714
2. Entry to Pre-registration scheme: £181
3. Registration Assessment entry fee: £214
4. Registration Assessment late entry fee: £428
5. Manual remarking of Assessment: £114

2.4 In addition it is proposed that the administration fees as set out in the draft Fees Rules 2012 for

- reprocessing payments which have not been honoured by the bank or card issuer; or
- returning applications to the applicant for additional information more than once

should be applied to failed payments and returned applications.

3.0 Equality and diversity implications

3.1 Charging uniform fees for the functions discussed in this paper recognises that pre-registration trainees and non-EEA OSPAP applicants receive a uniform service from the GPhC.

4.0 Communications implications

4.1 Fees for 2012 will be included in relevant application packs.

5.0 Resource implications

5.1 Pre-registration trainee pharmacists are required to buy several books for the training year but one, Medicines, ethics and practice has been supplied free by the Society. It is not clear at the moment whether this will be supplied free for the 2012 pre-registration intake.
6.0 Risk implications

6.1 Recommending a fee increase in a difficult economic climate is difficult but the GPhC cannot compromise its income stream if its strategic objectives are to be achieved.

Recommendations

The Council designate is asked to agree:

i. an inflationary uplift of 4% for education-related fees for 2012

ii. Fees for consultation

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