

# Consultation on the draft 2015 fees rules

February 2015

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The deadline for responding to this consultation is **Friday 15 May 2015**.

You can respond online at

[www.pharmacyregulation.org/fees2015](http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/fees2015)

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# 1. Overview

The GPhC is consulting until **Friday 15 May 2015** on changes we are proposing to our fees. These proposals mainly cover the renewal fees paid by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners. But they will also affect other fees paid by smaller numbers of people such as first-time applications for registration.

Our statutory purpose is to protect patients by setting and upholding standards in pharmacy. Effective regulation benefits not only patients and the public, but also registrants. Being a registered professional, or providing services from a registered pharmacy, means that patients will have confidence in that pharmacy professional. It also means that the pharmacies from which pharmacy services are provided must meet certain standards.

In summary:

- we propose to increase the yearly renewal fee for pharmacists by £10, from £240 to £250. This is an increase of 4.17 per cent on the present amount, although the proposed fee is still lower than the 2011 registration fee of £267
- we propose to increase the yearly renewal fee for pharmacy technicians by £10, from £108 to £118. This is an increase of 9.26 per cent on the present amount, although the proposed fee is still lower than the 2011 registration fee of £120
- we propose to increase the yearly renewal fee for pharmacy premises by £20, from £221 to £241. This is an increase of 9.05 per cent on the present amount
- we propose to increase other fees by various amounts, at rates slightly above inflation, to better reflect the costs of regulation

Our income from fees must ensure that we can continue to work effectively as a regulator in the long term. But we also take seriously our duty to keep challenging our costs to make sure that we work as efficiently and effectively as possible. As a result, even taking into account the small increases, the new fees for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, if agreed, would be lower than those charged in March 2011.

Since that time, we have kept increases in fees below the levels of both inflation and wage growth. This is due to sound financial planning, effective management, and significant efficiency gains through investments we have made in our statutory functions and supporting systems. The table below shows the fees we have charged since March 2011 and how we have managed to keep the levels low and avoid large fluctuations.

	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16
Fees	£s	£s	£s	£s	£s	£s
Pharmacists	262	267	240	240	240	250
Pharmacy technicians	142	120	108	108	108	118
Premises	217	221	221	221	221	241

In 2012 we consulted on reducing our fees, and since March 2013 the fees have not changed. Since then, we have spent money from our reserves to help us achieve our ambitious strategic plan. Last year, council approved a deficit budget (that is, spending more in that particular year than our projected income during it) because our reserves were large enough for that financial year, and we could continue the freeze in fees for another year.

We have now been established for just over four years and have made considerable progress as the pharmacy regulator. In that time, there have been increasing demands on the role of pharmacy and so have the duties of the pharmacy regulator. Also, for the first time the GPhC and the other health professions regulators will have to pay a levy to fund the Professional Standards Authority. This is a body that oversees all health professionals regulators in the UK. Up until now, these funds have come from the government.

We have developed the proposals for the 2015/16 budget and fee-setting with the following key points in mind:

- continuing to meet our core statutory duty of protecting the public, and in particular people who use the services of pharmacies and pharmacy professionals
- the cost projections for our annual corporate plan for 2015/16
- the resources we need to be able to deliver our three-year rolling strategy from 2015 to 2018
- the principle that we want to make sure there is a fair and proportionate allocation of fees to registrant groups, taking into account the costs of regulation
- our aim of avoiding significant fluctuations in fee levels in future years for any, or all, registrant groups
- our commitment to improve our efficiency and effectiveness across all areas of the GPhC

To make sure we can continue to meet the increasing costs of effective pharmacy regulation, our new proposed fees would come into force from October 2015.

The full text of the proposed fees rules, incorporating the proposed changes to fee categories and the proposed fees themselves, can be found in appendix 1. For ease of reference, the proposed fees are also set out in a table in section 8.

## 2. The consultation process

The council has considered carefully a range of information and evidence as part of considering this consultation on draft fee rules. However, we want to test our thinking and the council wants to make the best possible decisions about fees when it meets on 11 June 2015. We need help from everyone with information and views. This is so we can test our overall approach to fee setting, as well as the specific proposals and the potential impact or benefits of any particular fee levels. Please let us know what you think about any or all of the proposals described in this document.

The consultation will run for 12 weeks and will close on Friday 15 May 2015. During this time we would welcome feedback from individuals and organisations. We will send this document to a range of stakeholder organisations, including professional representative bodies and employers, as well as patients and their representative bodies. We hope they will review this consultation and consider responding.

You can download more copies of this document from our website or you can ask us for a copy of the document in an alternative format (for example, in larger type or in another language).

You can find out how to respond to the consultation in the *How to respond* section.

### Comments on the consultation process itself

If you have any concerns or comments about the consultation process itself, you can let us know:

- by emailing us at **feedback@pharmacyregulation.org**
- by writing to us at:

**Draft 2015 fees rules consultation process  
Governance team  
General Pharmaceutical Council  
25 Canada Square  
London  
E14 5LQ**

Please do not send actual consultation responses to these addresses.

### Report of this consultation

Once the consultation period is over, we will analyse the responses we receive and the council will take these into account when making its decisions. We will also publish a summary of the responses received and an explanation of the decisions the council takes. You will be able to see this on our website **www.pharmacyregulation.org**

The council will consider making the 2015 fees rules at its meeting in June 2015 and the rules will come into force on 15 October 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/3171/made>

## 3. Background

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacies in Great Britain. It is our job to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of members of the public and, in particular, those members of the public who use or need the services of pharmacy professionals or services provided at a registered pharmacy.

We regulate registered pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in community and hospital settings. And we also regulate practice within academia, research, public health, commissioning, management, industry, and other settings where the public rely indirectly, but no less significantly, on the professionalism and competence of pharmacy professionals in a wide range of non-clinical roles. We also set standards for registered pharmacies. These describe what patients should expect when receiving care at or from registered pharmacies.

Our principal functions include:

- maintaining a register of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises
- setting standards for conduct, ethics, proficiency, education and training, and continuing professional development (CPD)
- setting and promoting standards for the safe and effective practice of pharmacy at registered pharmacies
- establishing fitness to practise requirements and monitoring pharmacy professionals' fitness to practise, and
- dealing fairly and proportionately with complaints and concerns

We aim to make sure that regulation is fair and proportionate – taking into account the risk posed to public health, safety and wellbeing – and not over-burdensome. We want it to be flexible enough to respond to the changing demands made of the profession by governments on behalf of the public, and to allow for innovation, while at the same time maintaining high-quality practice.

The key points in the timetable for renewing registration are set for us by rules made under the Pharmacy Order 2010. The GPhC's registration rules say that we must send renewal notices to registrants and pharmacy owners at least three months before the expiry date for their registration. In turn, we must receive applications for renewal (including the relevant fee and the required declarations) at least two months before the expiry date.

This timetable has a big impact on the council's judgments. In making decisions now, in February 2015, about fee levels to consult on, the council has had to bear in mind all the things that could happen or change that may affect the GPhC's income and spending during the period these fees will cover.

The full text of the proposed fees rules, incorporating the proposed changes to fee categories and the proposed fees themselves, can be found in appendix 1. For ease of reference, the proposed fees are also set out in a table in section 8.

## 4. Our approach to fees

As we explain in our fees policy (see appendix 2), our approach to setting fees takes into account a number of different things. For the fees we are proposing now, this includes:

- continuing to meet our core statutory purpose of protecting the public, and people who use the services of pharmacies and pharmacy professionals
- the cost projections in our corporate plan for 2015/16
- the resources we need to be able to deliver our three-year rolling strategy from 2015 to 2018
- the principle that we want to make sure there is a fair and proportionate allocation of fees to registrant groups, taking into account the costs of regulation
- our aim of avoiding significant changes in fee levels in future years for any, or all, registrant groups
- our commitment to improve our efficiency and effectiveness across all areas of the GPhC

In setting our fees we have two main things to consider. Firstly, how much money we need to carry out our statutory functions in the most effective way possible. Secondly, how to allocate the fees between different registrant groups in the most appropriate and fair way. The council is keen to see that the fees we set for each registrant group reflect the cost of regulating that group.

With this in mind we have carried out a 'fees and cost allocation review'. The aim of this was to make sure that our fees reflect, as far as possible, the costs of regulating individual registrant groups and premises. Given the complexity of these issues, there is no 'perfect' formula for decision-making. But we are confident that the data and approach we have used to come up with the recommendations are sound.

In trying to allocate costs in this way, we need a detailed and in-depth understanding of what activities we carry out and why. We aim to continuously improve our understanding of this.

## 5. How the fees will be spent

It is important that we are transparent about how we have used the income generated from our fees, and about the activities we are planning in future to meet our statutory purpose of protecting the public.

All our income is spent on carrying out, or directly supporting, our principal functions, which are explained in section three. How it is spent, and how it is allocated between functions, will vary depending on a range of factors. You will find more detailed information in our annual report and accounts.

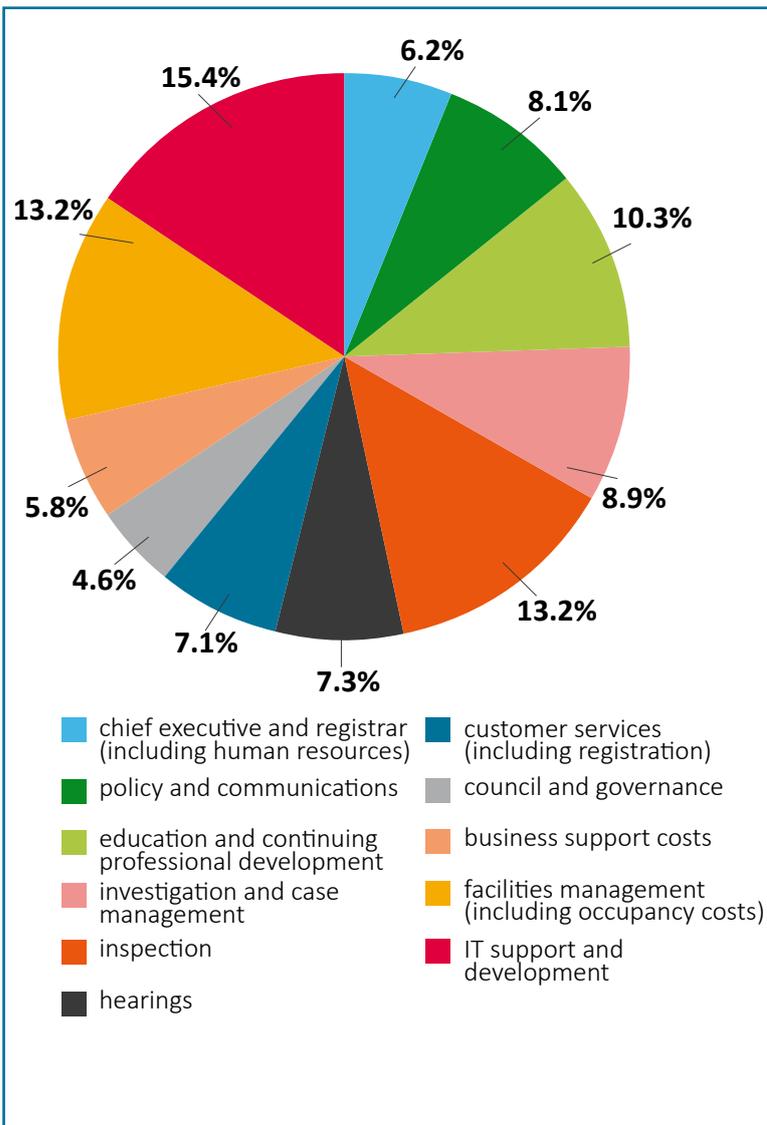
Our strategic plan for 2015 to 2018 clearly describes our view of how regulation can best protect patients and contribute to the improvement of pharmacy services. The plan recognises our own proposals to continue to modernise pharmacy regulation, and also the changing and increasing role of pharmacy proposed by governments across Great Britain. The plan means we need to develop the way we regulate pharmacy professionals as well as how we regulate services from registered pharmacy premises. The plan also sets the direction for the organisation, and guides our approach to policy development for each of our functions – from standard setting to inspection and fitness to practise.

Key areas for the next twelve to eighteen months include:

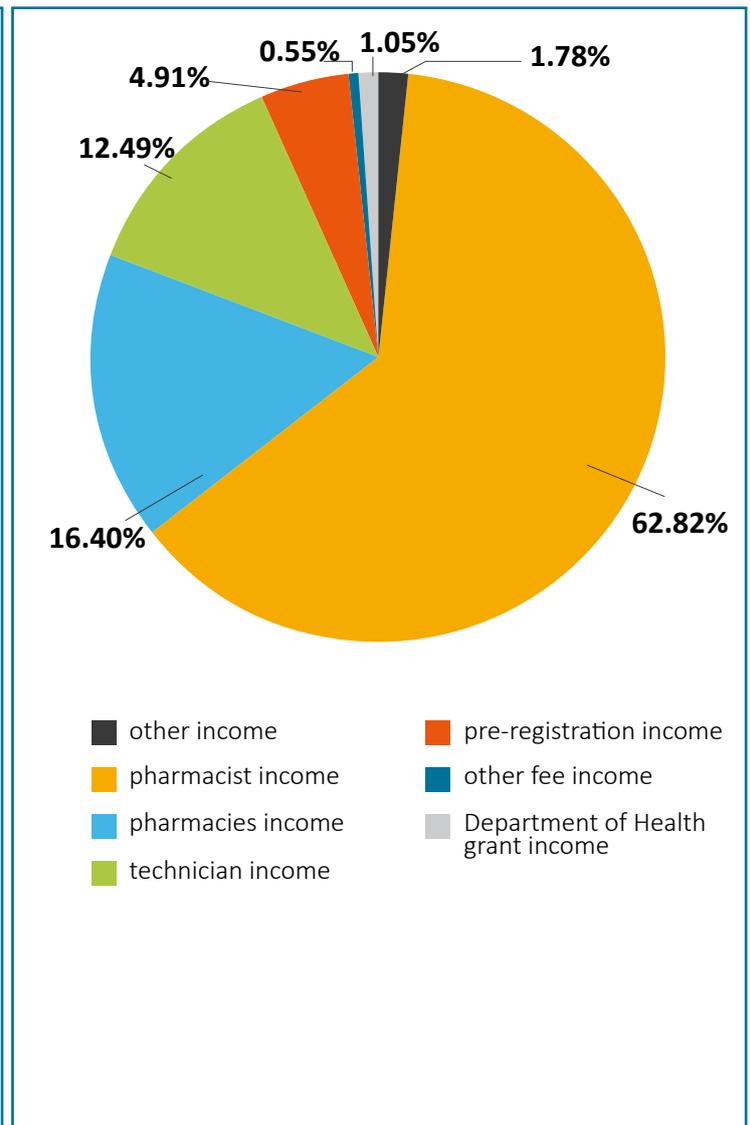
- review the standards of conduct, ethics and performance and update our standards for registered pharmacies
- review education standards for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians
- develop a model which will, in a proportionate way, allow us to assess the continuing fitness to practise of registrants
- embed, and continue to refine, our new approach to inspection
- improve how we deal with our fitness to practise cases, and how quickly we deal with them
- improve efficiency and effectiveness across the GPhC

Our council makes its decisions about the organisation's budget in open session, and you can see detailed financial information on the GPhC's website. However, the summary charts below show how the total income of the GPhC is made up. They show the contributions from different groups, and how the organisation spends this income on different regulatory and support functions.

## Budget expenditure 2015/16



## Breakdown of income 2015/16



## 6. How we set our proposed fees

The proposed fee levels take account of:

- the challenges facing the organisation
- our planned and expected work
- the need for continued investment in developing our systems and services, and in managing our financial reserves in line with our policy

Taking into account the work needed to meet our objectives and to manage our workload, we believe fee increases are necessary.

In setting fees, we have considered how the costs of regulation should be met proportionately by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners. Our aim is to make sure that the fee levels reflect as closely as possible the costs of regulating each of those groups.

To help us meet this aim, we have carried out a fees and cost allocation review. We were supported in this by an outside expert: Professor Barry McCormack, the founding director of the Centre for Health Services Economics and Organisation (CHSEO) based at the University of Oxford.

However, if we are to allocate costs in this way we need a detailed and in-depth understanding of what activities we are carrying out, and why. We have made significant progress in this area, and we aim to continuously improve our understanding of this.

Any regulator has certain fixed costs which are not directly linked to registrant numbers. So there are limitations to the method we have chosen to set the proposed fees. But we believe that allocating these costs evenly across all the entries on the register is the most appropriate way of doing this. We want to avoid dramatic changes to fees in any one year, and to take a longer-term view. This will avoid any unnecessary burden on registrants in the years ahead. So we do not intend to adjust the fees immediately to wholly reflect the results of the fees and cost allocation exercise. Instead we will continue to review our fee strategy to reflect our activities as we continue to develop.

The different increases to the fees – across the registrant groups and premises – are a result of this initial work. The balance between these fees may change in the future and we will continue to track trends as this work progresses.

You can find full details of the budget and budget-setting process for 2015/16 in the [February 2015 council papers](#), which are available on our [website](#). We encourage anyone who wants to consider in more detail our approach, assumptions and methodology to read this paper.

Our objective is to achieve ‘break-even’ by 2017/18 (that is, by then we will not spend more in the year than our projected income during it). And we are committed to driving down costs where possible. To help us see where further efficiencies could be made we will carry out a comprehensive efficiency and effectiveness review in 2015.

We will continue to work with other regulators to find out where we can reduce or share costs in delivering our operational work, and also in other areas such as policy development and engagement. We have already made progress in this by renting out our fitness to practise hearing space. This will generate income in the next financial year.

Although the actual increases are small in cash terms, we think it is important to highlight – for transparency’s sake – that the percentage increase for pharmacy technicians (at just over 9 per cent) is higher than the increase for pharmacists (just over 4 per cent). We believe that this increase is appropriate. It is in line with the principles we have set out for establishing fees, including our work to make sure the fees reflect the underlying cost of regulating each registrant group. It will also help us meet our commitment to avoiding, if possible, significant future changes in fees.

We also think it is appropriate, having considered the fees and the cost allocation exercise, that the highest fee increases are for pharmacy premises. In developing our fee proposals we have also considered whether both the levels of the fees we propose, and the percentage increases we propose, are appropriate given the wider economic situation.

Our view is that the answer in both cases is ‘yes’, taking into account the small size of the amounts involved against the background of the wider role which pharmacy and pharmacy team members are playing in health and wellbeing, and taking into account the other factors set out in our strategic plan.

The proposals on which we are consulting are in line with our fees policy (see appendix 2).

We charge separate fees for the following activities:

**scrutiny**

This is the fee for deciding what the qualifications and experience are of someone applying to register

**application**

This is the fee for processing an application. It will cover a range of costs depending on whether the application is for a pharmacy professional or a registered pharmacy

**annotating the register**

This is the fee to annotate a register entry for the first time to show a specialisation, for example a qualification as an independent prescriber

**restoring an entry to the register**

This is the fee to re-enter a name, an annotation, or a registered pharmacy in the register following its removal

**making an initial entry to the register**

This is the fee to enter a name or a registered pharmacy in the register for the first time. It covers the initial period of registration and contributes to the costs of regulation

**renewing an entry to the register**

This is the fee to keep a name or a registered pharmacy on the register for another 12 months and contributes to the costs of regulation.

The draft 2015 fees rules are in Appendix 1. The proposed fees are shown in full in section 8.

## 7. Changes to fee categories for applications and annotations

### *Application fees*

Our present rules sets two different application fees for entry in the register as a pharmacist. These are the standard fee, and the fee payable if someone was removed by an RPSGB fitness to practise committee and has never been on the GPhC register (a 'relevant person').

In our new fees rules, we propose to include more categories of application fees. Although the fee for each of these new categories is the same, this gives us the flexibility to have different fees in the future. This means we would be better able to reflect the different costs associated with assessing different kinds of application. We took this approach in 2012, when we introduced a range of restoration fees for people re-joining the register after taking a break of up to a year.

The proposed 2015 fees rules include the following categories of application fee for pharmacists:

- standard application fee
- application fee for someone removed from the RPSGB register (a 'relevant person')
- application fee following voluntary removal from the register
- application fee following removal from the register due to: a fraudulent or incorrect entry, fitness to practise matters before entry or renewal, failing to comply with indemnity requirements or failing to comply with CPD requirements
- application fee following removal for any other reason, such as failing to apply for renewal, failing to pay the required fee, or failing to notify us of a change of address

We are proposing a similar approach for these types of applications from pharmacy technicians.

### ***Premises registration fees***

We are also proposing more categories of fees covering applications for registration by pharmacies. This would allow us to charge different fees in different circumstances, for example:

- following removal because the entry was not renewed
- following voluntary removal
- following removal by the fitness to practise committee
- following removal for non-compliance with an improvement notice
- following removal of a fraudulent or incorrect entry

Again, we do not propose now to set different amounts for the fees in each of these categories. But the structure would allow for this in the future, to better reflect the costs of regulation.

### ***Annotation fees***

We currently have a single application fee for adding an annotation to a pharmacist's entry in the register. In the draft 2015 fees rules, we have proposed a separate fee for application for an annotation that has previously been removed, for example because of non-compliance with CPD requirements. This reflects the approach taken in the current fees rules to fees for application for restoration of an annotation.

## 8. Our proposed fees in full

### Part 1 of the register (pharmacists)

Fee	Fee from October 2012	Proposed fee from October 2015
Application for an initial entry in the register	£102	£106
Application for an initial entry for a person previously removed from the RPSGB's register by a disciplinary committee	£413	£429
Initial entry in the register	£240	£250
Initial entry for a person previously removed from the RPSGB's register by a disciplinary committee	£240	£250
Application for an initial entry of an annotation in the register	£55	£57
Renewal of an entry	£240	£250
Application for voluntary removal from the register	£0	£0
Application for voluntary removal of an annotation	£0	£0
Application for restoration to the register (that is, within a year of leaving the register):	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following voluntary removal, or</li> <li>• if the application is within 1 month of the date of voluntary removal</li> </ul>	£138	£144
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– for failure to meet CPD requirements (article 37(1)(g))</li> <li>– for failure to have appropriate indemnity arrangements (article 37(1)(f))</li> <li>– for a fraudulent or incorrect entry (article 37(1)(c)), other than incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee, or</li> <li>– for fitness to practise matters before registration or renewal (article 37(1)(d))</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	£384	£399
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal for any other reason – for example, non-renewal of registration or non-payment of fees (article 37(1)(a)); incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee (article 37(1)(c)), or not keeping us notified of their address (article 37(1)(b))</li> </ul>	£551	£573
	£384	£399

## Part 1 of the register (pharmacists) continued

Fee	Fee from October 2012	Proposed fee from October 2015
Application for restoration to the register following removal by the fitness to practise committee (article 57)	£551	£573
Restoration of an entry in the register	£102	£106
Application for re-entry to the register (after an absence of more than one year for any reason other than removal by the fitness to practise committee):	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following voluntary removal</li> </ul>	£138	£144
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– for failure to meet CPD requirements (article 37(1)(g))</li> <li>– for failure to have appropriate indemnity arrangements (article 37(1)(f))</li> <li>– for a fraudulent or incorrect entry (article 37(1)(c)), other than incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee, or</li> <li>– for fitness to practise matters before registration or renewal (article 37(1)(d))</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	£551	£573
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal for any other reason – for example, non-renewal of registration or non-payment of fees (article 37(1)(a)); incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee (article 37(1)(c)), or not keeping us notified of their address (article 37(1)(b))</li> </ul>	£384	£399
Re-entry in the register	£102	£106
Application for restoration or re-entry of an annotation:	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following voluntary removal</li> </ul>	£55	£57
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal for failure to meet CPD requirements (article 27(1)(c))</li> </ul>	£184	£191
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal for any other reason, for example non-renewal</li> </ul>	£184	£191
Replacement of a notice of entry in the register	£15	£15
Certificate of good standing or current professional status	£78	£81
Re-processing a failed payment	£20	£20
Processing an application for entry in the register which has been returned more than once for additional information	£47	£48

**Part 1 of the register (pharmacists) continued**

<b>Fee</b>	<b>Fee from October 2012</b>	<b>Proposed fee from October 2015</b>
Fee for quarterly Direct Debits	£15	£15
Fee for a credit card payment (of any fee)	2% of relevant fee	2% of relevant fee
Initial scrutiny of an application for entry in the register to decide if an exempt person is appropriately qualified under article 21(1)(b)	£105	£109
Assessing whether an exempt person is appropriately qualified under articles 21(1)(c) or 21(1)(d)(ii)(aa)	£376	£391

## Part 2 of the register (pharmacy technicians)

Fee	Fee from October 2012	Proposed fee from October 2015
Application for initial entry in the register	£102	£106
Application for initial entry for a person previously removed from the RPSGB's register by a disciplinary committee	£283	£294
Initial entry in the register	£108	£118
Initial entry for a person previously removed from the RPSGB's register by a disciplinary committee	£108	£118
Renewal of an entry	£108	£118
Application for voluntary removal from the register	£0	£0
Application for restoration to the register (that is, within a year of leaving the register):	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following voluntary removal, or</li> <li>• if the application is within 1 month of the date of voluntary removal</li> </ul>	£6	£12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– for failure to meet CPD requirements (article 37(1)(g))</li> <li>– for failure to have appropriate indemnity arrangements (article 37(1)(f))</li> <li>– for a fraudulent or incorrect entry (article 37(1)(c)), other than incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee, or</li> <li>– for fitness to practise matters before registration or renewal (article 37(1)(d))</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	£195	£202
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• following removal for any other reason (for example, non-renewal of registration or non-payment of fees (article 37(1)(a)); incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee (article 37(1)(c)), or not keeping us notified of their address (article 37(1)(b))</li> </ul>	£290	£301
Application for restoration to the register following removal by the fitness to practise committee (article 57)	£195	£202
Application for restoration to the register following removal by the fitness to practise committee (article 57)	£290	£301
Restoration of an entry in the register	£102	£106

## Part 2 of the register (pharmacy technicians) continued

Fee	Fee from October 2012	Proposed fee from October 2015
Application for re-entry in the register (after an absence of more than one year, for any reason other than removal by the fitness to practise committee):	-	-
• following voluntary removal	£6	£12
• following removal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– for failing to meet CPD requirements (article 37(1)(g))</li> <li>– for failing to have appropriate indemnity arrangements (article 37(1)(f))</li> <li>– for a fraudulent or incorrect entry (article 37(1)(c)), other than incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee, or</li> <li>– for fitness to practise matters before registration or renewal (article 37(1)(d))</li> </ul>	£290	£301
• following removal for any other reason – for example, non-renewal of registration or non-payment of fees (article 37(1)(a)); incorrect entries removed due to failure to pay all or part of a fee (article 37(1)(c)), or not keeping us notified of their address (article 37(1)(b))	£195	£202
Re-entry in the register	£102	£106
Replacement of a notice of entry in the register	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Certificate of good standing or current professional status	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Re-processing a failed payment	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Processing an application for entry in the register which has been returned more than once for additional information	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Fee for quarterly Direct Debits	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Fee for a credit card payment of any fee	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Initial scrutiny of an exempt or EEA application	£194	£201
Initial scrutiny of a non-exempt overseas application	£44	£45

### Part 3 of the register (premises)

Fee	Fee from October 2012	Proposed fee from October 2015
Application for an entry in the register	£568	£590
Application for re-entry in the register (after an absence of more than one year) when the previous entry was removed from the register and the applicant was the owner of the premises at the time of removal:	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following voluntary removal (section 74G)</li> </ul>	£119	£135
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following removal under section 74A(7) (entry ceasing to be valid)</li> </ul>	£687	£714
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following removal by the fitness to practise committee (section 80)</li> </ul>	£687	£714
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following removal for failure to comply with an improvement notice (article 14(4)(a))</li> </ul>	£687	£714
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following the removal of a fraudulent or incorrect entry (article 29(3)(b))</li> </ul>	£687	£714
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following removal for any other reason, for example non-payment of a fee</li> </ul>	£568	£590
Initial entry in the register	£221	£241
Application for an annotation in the register (important: there are no annotations available yet)	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Renewal of an entry	£221	£241
Application for voluntary removal from the register	£0	£0
Application for voluntary removal of an annotation	£0	£0
Application for restoration to the register:	-	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>following voluntary removal (section 74G)</li> </ul>	£119	£135
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>under article 37(2)(a) of the Order (failure to comply with an improvement notice); or under section 74C(1) (entry ceasing to be valid) or section 74I(1) (entry ceasing to be valid following a change of ownership) of the Act</li> </ul>	£687	£714

### Part 3 of the register (premises) continued

Fee	Fee from October 2012	Proposed fee from October 2015
Restoration of an entry in the register	£102	£106
Application for restoration of an annotation following voluntary removal (important: there are no annotations available yet)	As for Part 1 (restoration after voluntary removal)	As for Part 1 (restoration after voluntary removal)
Re-processing a failed payment	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Processing an application for entry in the register which has been returned more than once for additional information	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Fee for a credit card payment of any fee	As for Part 1	As for Part 1
Change of ownership	£76	£79

## 9. How our proposed renewal fees compare with those of other regulators

The table below shows our proposed renewal fees and the renewal fees charged by the other eight UK health professions regulators (based on the most up-to-date information available in February 2015). We also show a fee that the CQC sets for premises for comparison.

Regulator	Profession/s	Approximate number of registrants	Standard renewal fee (£)
Care Quality Commission	NHS	4,398 (premises)	example. 600 per dental chair
General Chiropractic Council	chiropractors	2,808	800 (practising)
General Dental Council	dentists	40,423	890 116 specialist (per speciality)
	dental care professionals	63, 027	120
General Medical Council	medical practitioners	270,000	420 (from April 2015)
General Optical Council	optometrists & dispensing opticians	12,761	310
General Osteopathic Council	osteopaths	4,816	320-570 (varies with years of practice)
General Pharmaceutical Council (proposed fees)	pharmacists	48,814	250
	pharmacy technicians	22,406	118
	pharmacy premises	14,306	241
Health and Care Professions Council	all HCPC registrant groups	320,552	80
Nursing and Midwifery Council	nurses and midwives	673,567	120
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland	pharmacists	2,155	395 (combined professional and regulatory fee)

## 10. Consultation questions

This is a list of the consultation questions. You can find out how to give us your views on these in the *How to respond* section.

1. In working out the proposed fees, the GPhC carried out a review to make sure that the costs of regulation are more proportionately met by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises. Do you agree with this approach?
2. Do you agree with our proposal to increase in the renewal fee for pharmacists by £10, from £240 to £250?
3. Do you agree with our proposal to increase the renewal fee for pharmacy technicians by £10, from £108 to £118?
4. Do you agree with our proposal to increase the renewal fee for pharmacy premises by £20, from £221 to £241?
5. Do you agree that our proposals are in line with our fees policy?
6. Do you agree with our proposals to change the 'application for entry' and 'annotations' fee categories?
7. Do you have any other comments you want to make?

# Appendix 1: draft fees rules

The Pharmacy Order 2010 allows the GPhC to make rules regarding fees in connection with the entry of a person or premises to the Register. These rules are often referred to as the “fees rules”.

## *The General Pharmaceutical Council (Registration and Renewal Fees) Rules 2015*

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The General Pharmaceutical Council has made these Rules in exercise of the powers conferred by articles 36(1) and 66(1) of the Pharmacy Order 2010<sup>(2)</sup>.

In accordance with article 66(3) of that Order, the General Pharmaceutical Council has consulted such persons and organisations as it considered appropriate including the persons and organisations listed in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of article 36(6) and in sub-paragraphs (a) to (h) of article 66(3) of that that Order<sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> S.I. 2010/231.

<sup>3</sup> Article 66(3)(a) was amended by S.I. 2013/235.

## PART 1

### General

#### Citation and commencement

1. (1) These Rules may be cited as the General Pharmaceutical Council (Registration and Renewal Fees) Rules 2015.
- (2) These Rules come into force on [date].

#### Interpretation

2. (1) In these Rules—
  - “the Act” means the Medicines Act 1968; “certificate” means a certificate of good standing or current professional status which is issued by the Council in respect of a person and which contains the information referred to in rule 10(6)(a) to (f) of the Registration Rules; “credit card” means a card—
    - (a) which is a credit-token falling within section 14(1)(b) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974<sup>4</sup>; or
    - (b) which would be a credit-token falling within that enactment were that card to be given to an individual;
  - “former registrant” has the meaning given in paragraph (2);
  - “the Order” means the Pharmacy Order 2010;
  - “Registration Rules” means the rules contained in the Schedule to the General Pharmaceutical Council (Registration Rules) Order of Council 2010<sup>5</sup>;
  - “relevant person” has the meaning given in paragraph (3).
- (2) For the purposes of these Rules, a person is a “former registrant” if—
  - (a) the person is no longer entered in Part 1 or 2 of the Register; and
  - (b) the person’s name was removed from that Part of the Register otherwise than by virtue of a direction given by the Council’s Fitness to Practise Committee under article 54(2)(c) or (3)(a)(i) or (b)(iv) of the Order (consideration by the Fitness to Practise Committee); and
  - (c) the person is not, or is no longer, capable of being restored to the Register on an application for restoration pursuant to article 37(1) of the Order (restoration to the Register of persons or premises removed from the Register).

<sup>4</sup> 1974 c.39.

<sup>5</sup> These Rules are contained in the Schedule to S.I. 2010/1617.

<sup>6</sup> 1954 c.61. The Act was repealed by paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/289).

<sup>7</sup> S.I. 2007/289. The Order was revoked by paragraph 58 of Schedule 4 to the Pharmacy Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/231).

- (3) For the purposes of these Rules, a person is a “relevant person” if—
- (a) the person’s name was—
    - (i) by virtue of a direction under section 8 of the Pharmacy Act 1954(6) (direction of unfitness by Statutory Committee) removed from the register maintained under section 2(1) of that Act; or
    - (ii) by virtue of a direction under article 52 of the Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians Order 2007(7) (determination as to fitness to practise by Disciplinary Committee) removed from the register of pharmacists maintained under article 10(1) of that Order or from the register of pharmacy technicians maintained under article 21(1) of that Order; and
  - (b) immediately before 27th September 2010, the person was not registered in either of the registers referred to in sub-paragraph (a)(ii); and
  - (c) the person has not been entered in Part 1 or 2 of the Register.

#### **Revocation**

- 3.** The General Pharmaceutical Council (Registration and Renewal Fees) Rules 2012 are revoked.

## PART 2

### Registered Pharmacists

#### *Fees in respect of Register entries or annotations*

#### **Application for entry in Part 1 of the Register**

4. (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for the entry of a person in Part 1 of the Register.
- (2) Except as mentioned in paragraph (3) or (4), the fee is £106.
- (3) Where the application is made in respect of a relevant person the fee is £429.
- (4) Where the application is made in respect of a former registrant—
- (a) the fee is £106 if the removal of the former registrant's entry from the Register was voluntary;
  - (b) the fee is £573 if the removal of that entry was done under or by virtue of any provision listed in paragraph (5);
  - (c) the fee is £399 in any case not within sub-paragraph (a) or (b).
- (5) For the purposes of paragraph (4)(b), the listed provisions are—
- (a) article 37(1)(c) of the Order (fraudulent or incorrect entries);
  - (b) article 37(1)(d) of the Order (fitness to practise matters before entry or renewal of an entry);
  - (c) article 37(1)(f) of the Order (failure to comply with requirements as to indemnity arrangements); or
  - (d) article 37(1)(g) of the Order (failure to comply with continuing professional development framework or the making of a false declaration as to compliance).
- (6) Paragraph (4)(b) does not apply to the removal of an incorrect entry for non-payment of the whole or any part of any fee required by article 20(1)(b) or (2)(b) of the Order (entitlement to entry in Part 1 or 2 of the Register).
- (7) The whole of the fee specified in any of paragraphs (2) to (4) is payable irrespective of whether the application for registration is granted.

#### **Entry in Part 1 of the Register following grant of an application**

5. Where an application is granted in respect of which a fee specified in rule 4 is payable, the fee for making an entry in Part 1 of the Register in respect of the person to whom the application relates is £250.

### **Determining certain qualifications and experience**

6. (1) The fee in respect of the initial scrutiny of an application for entry in Part 1 of the Register to determine whether an exempt person is appropriately qualified pursuant to article 21(1)(b) of the Order (pre-entry requirements in respect of qualifications and additional education, training or experience: pharmacists) is £109.
- (2) The fee in respect of assessing whether an exempt person is appropriately qualified pursuant to article 21(1)(c) or article 21(1)(d)(ii)(aa) of the Order is £391.
- (3) Where a determination described in paragraph (1) is made to the effect that a person is not appropriately qualified and it is followed by the making of an assessment described in paragraph (2), the fee specified in each of those paragraphs is payable.
- (4) The fees specified in this rule are payable in addition to the fees specified in rules 4 and 5.

### **Application for an annotation to an entry in Part 1 of the Register**

7. (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application to have an annotation to an entry in Part 1 of the Register in respect of a specialisation.
- (2) Except as mentioned in paragraph (3), the fee is £57.
- (3) The fee is £191 where—
  - (a) the application is made by a registrant or former registrant who has previously had an annotation in respect of the same specialisation, and
  - (b) that annotation was removed under rules made by virtue of article 27(1)(c) of the Order (which includes provision for rules to be made as to the circumstances in which annotations to an entry may be removed).
- (4) The whole of the fee specified in paragraph (2) or (3), as the case may be, is payable irrespective of whether the application to have the annotation is granted.

### **Voluntary removal of an entry or an annotation from Part 1 of the Register**

8. No fee is payable in respect of an application for the voluntary removal from Part 1 of the Register of—
  - (a) an entry in that Part; or
  - (b) an annotation to an entry in that Part in respect of a specialisation.

### *Fees in respect of renewal of Register entries*

### **Renewal of an entry in Part 1 of the Register**

9. (1) The fee for renewal of an entry in Part 1 of the Register is £250.
- (2) A person (“P”) may enter into an arrangement with the Registrar to delay payment of part of the renewal fee under paragraph (1).

- (3) Where such an arrangement is entered into—
  - (a) the renewal fee is to be paid by P in instalments by way of direct debit; but
  - (b) the outstanding balance of an amount equal to the aggregate of the renewal fee and any additional fee due under rule 14 becomes payable immediately if the Registrar gives P a notice under paragraph (4).
- (4) The Registrar may give P a notice under this paragraph in any case where P—
  - (a) fails to make a payment which has fallen due under the arrangement referred to in paragraph (2); or
  - (b) fails to comply in any other respect with the terms and conditions referred to in rule 4(2) of the Registration Rules (payment of fees by instalments); or
  - (c) makes an application for the voluntary removal of P's entry from Part 1 of the Register.
- (5) Nothing in paragraphs (2) to (4) affects P's liability to pay the whole of the renewal fee and any additional fee due under rule 14.

*Fees in respect of restoration of Register entries or annotations*

**Application to restore an entry to Part 1 of the Register**

- 10. (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for restoration of an entry to Part 1 of the Register.
- (2) Where the application is made following the voluntary removal of an entry—
  - (a) the fee is £399 if the application is made before the end of the period of 1 month starting with the date of the voluntary removal; and
  - (b) the fee is £143 in any other case.
- (3) The fee is £399 where the application is made following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in—
  - (a) article 37(1)(a) of the Order (the Registrar's refusal to renew an entry); or
  - (b) article 37(1)(b) of the Order (failure to discharge duties with regard to the registrant's entry).
- (4) Where the application is made following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in article 37(1)(c) of the Order (fraudulent or incorrect entries)—
  - (a) the fee is £399 if an incorrect entry was removed because of non-payment of the whole or any part of a fee required by article 20(1)(b) or (2)(b) of the Order (entitlement to entry in Part 1 or 2 of the Register); and
  - (b) the fee is £573 in any other case.

- (5) The fee is £573 where the application is made—
- (a) following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in—
    - (i) article 37(1)(d) of the Order (fitness to practise matters before entry or renewal of an entry);
    - (ii) article 37(1)(f) of the Order (failure to comply with requirements as to indemnity arrangements); or
    - (iii) article 37(1)(g) of the Order (failure to comply with continuing professional development framework or the making of a false declaration as to compliance); or
  - (b) following the grant of an application by the Council's Fitness to Practise Committee under article 57 of the Order (restoration of names to the Register: fitness to practise).
- (6) The whole of the fee specified in any of paragraphs (2) to (5) is payable irrespective of whether the application for restoration of an entry is granted.

#### **Restoring an entry to Part 1 of the Register following grant of an application**

11. (1) Where an application is granted in respect of which a fee specified in rule 10 is payable, the fee for restoring an entry to Part 1 of the Register in respect of the person to whom the application relates is £106.
- (2) The whole of the restoration fee is payable irrespective of the date on which the entry is restored to Part 1 of the Register.

#### **Restoring an annotation to an entry in Part 1 of the Register**

12. (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for restoration of an annotation made to an entry in Part 1 of the Register.
- (2) The fee is £57 if the application is made following the voluntary removal of the annotation.
- (3) The fee is £191 if the application is made following the removal of the annotation under rules made by virtue of article 27(1)
- (c) of the Order (which includes provision for rules to be made as to the circumstances in which annotations to an entry may be removed).
- (4) The whole of the fee specified in paragraph (2) or (3), as the case may be, is payable irrespective of whether the application for restoration of an annotation is granted.

*Other fees*

**Notices and certificates**

- 13.** (1) The fee for the replacement of a notice of entry in Part 1 of the Register is £15.  
(2) The fee for issuing a certificate in respect of a person entered in Part 1 of the Register is £81.

**Administration**

- 14.** (1) The fee for re-processing a payment which has not been honoured by the bank or card-issuer of a person paying a fee specified in any of the preceding provisions of this Part is £20.  
(2) The fee for processing an application for entry in Part 1 of the Register where the application has been returned to the applicant for additional information more than once is £48 and that fee is payable in addition to the fee payable under rule 4.  
(3) Where an arrangement to delay payment of part of the renewal fee is entered into under rule 9, an additional fee of £15 for the administration of the arrangement shall be added to the first payment to be made in respect of the renewal fee.  
(4) Where a credit card is used to pay a fee (“the primary fee”) specified in any of the preceding provisions of this Part—  
(a) an additional fee for processing the payment shall be added to the primary fee; and  
(b) the amount to be added is to be determined as 2 per cent. of the amount of the primary fee.

### **PART 3**

#### Registered Pharmacy Technicians

##### *Fees in respect of Register entries*

#### **Application for entry in Part 2 of the Register**

- 15.** (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for the entry of a person in Part 2 of the Register.
- (2) Except as mentioned in paragraph (3) or (4), the fee is £106.
- (3) Where the application is made in respect of a relevant person, the fee is £294.
- (4) Where the application is made in respect of a former registrant—
- (a) the fee is £6 if the removal of the former registrant's entry from the Register was voluntary;
  - (b) the fee is £301 if the removal of that entry was done under or by virtue of any provision listed in rule 4(5);
  - (c) the fee is £202 in any case not within sub-paragraph (a) or (b).
- (5) Paragraph (4)(b) does not apply to the removal of an incorrect entry for non-payment of the whole or any part of any fee required by article 20(1)(b) or (2)(b) of the Order (entitlement to entry in Part 1 or 2 of the Register).
- (6) The whole of the fee specified in any of paragraphs (2) to (4) is payable irrespective of whether the application for registration is granted.

#### **Entry in Part 2 of the Register following grant of an application**

- 16.** Where an application is granted in respect of which a fee specified in rule 15 is payable, the fee for making an entry in Part 2 of the Register in respect of the person to whom the application relates is £118.

### **Determining certain qualifications and experience**

17. (1) The fee in respect of the initial scrutiny of an application for entry in Part 2 of the Register to determine whether an exempt person has a right to practise as a pharmacy technician pursuant to article 22(1)(b) or (1)(c)(ii)(aa) of the Order (pre-entry requirements in respect of qualifications and additional education, training or experience: pharmacy technicians) is £201.
- (2) The fee in respect of the initial scrutiny of an application for entry in Part 2 of the Register made by a person (“T”) to determine whether T—
- (a) has completed elsewhere than in the United Kingdom education and training as a pharmacist or pharmacy technician which leads to a qualification entitling T to practise as a pharmacy professional in a country other than the United Kingdom; and
  - (b) meets Conditions 1 and 2, is £45.
- (3) Condition 1 is that, for the purposes of article 20(1)(a) of the Order, T is appropriately qualified pursuant to article 22(1)(c)(i) or (1)(c)(ii)(bb) of the Order.
- (4) Condition 2 is that T has undertaken in the United Kingdom a minimum amount of relevant work experience of not less than 14 hours a week either whilst T was training to be qualified as described in Condition 1 or post-qualification.
- (5) No fee is payable in respect of the initial scrutiny of an application for entry in Part 2 of the Register where, for the purposes of article 20(1)(a) of the Order, the person is appropriately qualified pursuant to article 22(1)(a) of the Order (approved qualification awarded in Great Britain).
- (6) The fees specified in this rule are payable in addition to the fees specified in rules 15 and 16.

### **Voluntary removal of an entry from Part 2 of the Register**

18. No fee is payable in respect of an application for the voluntary removal of an entry from Part 2 of the Register.

#### *Fees in respect of renewal of Register entries*

### **Renewal of an entry in Part 2 of the Register**

19. (1) The fee for renewal of an entry in Part 2 of the Register is £118.
- (2) A person (“T”) may enter into an arrangement with the Registrar to delay payment of part of the renewal fee under paragraph (1).
- (3) Where such an arrangement is entered into—
- (a) the renewal fee is to be paid by T in instalments by way of direct debit; but
  - (b) the outstanding balance of an amount equal to the aggregate of the renewal fee and any additional fee due under rule 23 becomes payable immediately if the Registrar gives T a notice under paragraph (4).

- (4) The Registrar may give T a notice under this paragraph in any case where T—
  - (a) fails to make any payment which has fallen due under the arrangement referred to in paragraph (2); or
  - (b) fails to comply in any other respect with the terms and conditions referred to in rule 4(2) of the Registration Rules (payment of fees by instalments); or
  - (c) makes an application for the voluntary removal of T's entry from Part 2 of the Register.
- (5) Nothing in paragraphs (2) to (4) affects T's liability to pay the whole of the renewal fee and any additional fee due under rule 23.

*Fees in respect of restoration of Register entries*

**Application to restore an entry to Part 2 of the Register**

- 20.**
- (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for restoration of an entry to Part 2 of the Register.
  - (2) Where the application is made following the voluntary removal of an entry—
    - (a) the fee is £202 if the application is made before the end of the period of 1 month starting with the date of the voluntary removal; and
    - (b) the fee is £6 in any other case.
  - (3) The fee is £202 where the application is made following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in—
    - (a) article 37(1)(a) of the Order (the Registrar's refusal to renew an entry); or
    - (b) article 37(1)(b) of the Order (failure to discharge duties with regard to the registrant's entry).
  - (4) Where the application is made following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in article 37(1)(c) of the Order (fraudulent or incorrect entries)—
    - (a) the fee is £202 if an incorrect entry was removed because of non-payment of the whole or any part of a fee required by article 20(1)(b) or (2)(b) of the Order (entitlement to entry in Part 1 or 2 of the Register); and
    - (b) the fee is £301 in any other case.
  - (5) The fee is £301 where the application is made—
    - (a) following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in—
      - (i) article 37(1)(d) of the Order (fitness to practise matters before entry or renewal of an entry);
      - (ii) article 37(1)(f) of the Order (failure to comply with requirements as to indemnity arrangements); or
      - (iii) article 37(1)(g) of the Order (failure to comply with continuing professional development framework or the making of a false declaration as to compliance); or
    - (b) following the grant of an application by the Council's Fitness to Practise Committee under article 57 of the Order (restoration of names to the Register: fitness to practise).

- (6) The whole of the fee specified in any of paragraphs (2) to (5) is payable irrespective of whether the application for restoration of an entry is granted.

**Restoring an entry to Part 2 of the Register following grant of an application**

21. (1) Where an application is granted in respect of which a fee specified in rule 20 is payable, the fee for restoring an entry to Part 2 of the Register in respect of the person to whom the application relates is £106.  
(2) The whole of the restoration fee is payable irrespective of the date on which the entry is restored to Part 2 of the Register.

*Other fees*

**Notices and certificates**

22. (1) The fee for the replacement of a notice of entry in Part 2 of the Register is £15.  
(2) The fee for issuing a certificate in respect of a person entered in Part 2 of the Register is £81.

**Administration**

23. (1) The fee for re-processing a payment which has not been honoured by the bank or card-issuer of a person paying a fee specified in any of the preceding provisions of this Part is £20.  
(2) The fee for processing an application for entry in Part 2 of the Register where the application has been returned to the applicant for additional information more than once is £48 and that fee is payable in addition to the fee payable under rule 15.  
(3) Where an arrangement to delay payment of part of the renewal fee is entered into under rule 19, an additional fee of £15 for the administration of the arrangement shall be added to the first payment to be made in respect of the renewal fee.  
(4) Where a credit card is used to pay a fee (“the primary fee”) specified in any of the preceding provisions of this Part—  
(a) an additional fee for processing the payment shall be added to the primary fee; and  
(b) the amount to be added is to be determined as 2 per cent. of the amount of the primary fee.

## PART 4

### Premises

#### *Fees in respect of Register entries or annotations*

#### **Application for entry in Part 3 of the Register**

- 24.** (1) Except as mentioned in rule 25, the fee in respect of an application for the entry of premises in Part 3 of the Register is £590.
- (2) The whole of the fee specified in paragraph (1) is payable irrespective of whether the application for registration is granted.

#### **Application for entry in Part 3 of the Register following removal of previous entry**

- 25.** (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for the entry of premises in Part 3 of the Register which is made in the following circumstances—
- (a) the previous entry in respect of the premises was removed from the Register; and
  - (b) the person making the application is the person who was carrying on the retail pharmacy business at the premises immediately before the entry was removed.
- (2) The fee is £714 where the previous entry was removed under section 74A(7) of the Act (8) (registration of premises: Great Britain) and is no longer capable of being restored to the Register on an application for restoration under section 74C of the Act (supplementary provision in respect of registration of premises: Great Britain).
- (3) The fee is £135 where the previous entry was removed by virtue of an application under section 74G of the Act (voluntary removal from the Register: Great Britain) and is no longer capable of being restored to the Register on an application for restoration pursuant to article 37(2) of the Order.
- (4) The fee is £714 where—
- (a) the previous entry was removed by virtue of a direction under section 80 of the Act (power to disqualify and direct removal from Register); and
  - (b) that direction is revoked under section 83 of the Act.
- (5) The fee is £714 where the previous entry was removed under article 14(4)(a) of the Order and is no longer capable of being restored to the Register on an application for restoration pursuant to article 37(2) of the Order.

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8 1968 c.67. Sections 74A to 74L were inserted by paragraph 1(1) and (8) of Schedule 4 to the Pharmacy Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/231).

- (6) Where the previous entry was removed pursuant to article 29(3)(b) of the Order (fraudulent or incorrect entries)—
- (a) the fee is £590 if an incorrect entry was removed because of non-payment of the whole or any part of a fee required by section 74B(3) of the Act (conditions for registration: Great Britain); and
  - (b) the fee is £714 in any other case.
- (7) The whole of the fee specified in any of paragraphs (2) to (6) is payable irrespective of whether the application for registration is granted.

### **Entry in Part 3 of the Register following the grant of an application**

26. Where an application is granted in respect of which a fee specified in rule 24 or 25 is payable, the fee for making an entry in Part 3 of the Register in respect of the premises to which the application relates is £241.

### **Application for an annotation to an entry in Part 3 of the Register**

27. The fee in respect of an application to have an annotation to an entry in Part 3 of the Register in respect of a specialisation is £57.

### **Voluntary removal of an entry or an annotation from Part 3 of the Register**

28. No fee is payable in respect of an application for the voluntary removal from Part 3 of the Register of—
- (a) an entry in that Part; or
  - (b) an annotation to an entry in that Part in respect of a specialisation.

### *Fees in respect of renewal of Register entries*

### **Renewal of an entry in Part 3 of the Register**

29. (1) The fee for renewal of an entry in Part 3 of the Register is £241 if the renewal is for a period of one year beginning with the date on which the entry would otherwise have ceased to be valid.
- (2) If the Registrar renews an entry in Part 3 of the Register for a period exceeding one year<sup>(9)</sup>, the fee for renewal of the entry is to be increased proportionately.

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<sup>9</sup> The Registrar's power to renew an entry for a period exceeding one year is conferred by section 74A(6) of the Medicines Act 1968 and rule 24(8) of the Rules contained in the Schedule to the General Pharmaceutical Council (Registration Rules) Order of Council 2010 (S.I. 2010/1617).

*Fees in respect of restoration of Register entries or annotations*

**Application to restore an entry to Part 3 of the Register**

- 30.** (1) The fees specified in this rule are payable in respect of an application for restoration of an entry of premises to Part 3 of the Register.
- (2) The fee is £123 where the application is made following the voluntary removal of an entry.
- (3) The fee is £714 where the application is made following the removal of an entry under or by virtue of a provision specified in—
- (a) article 37(2)(a) of the Order (failure to comply with improvement notice);
  - (b) section 74C(1) of the Act (non-renewal of an entry); or
  - (c) section 74I(1) of the Act (non-notification of change of ownership of retail pharmacy premises).
- (4) The whole of the fee specified in paragraph (2) or (3), as the case may be, is payable irrespective of whether the application for restoration of an entry is granted.

**Restoring an entry to Part 3 of the Register following grant of an application**

- 31.** (1) Where an application is granted in respect of which a fee specified in rule 30 is payable, the fee for restoring an entry to Part 3 of the Register in respect of the premises to which the application relates is £106.
- (2) The whole of the restoration fee is payable irrespective of the date on which the entry is restored to Part 3 of the Register.

**Restoring an annotation to an entry in Part 3 of the Register**

- 32.** (1) The fee in respect of an application for restoration of an annotation to an entry in Part 3 of the Register is £57.
- (2) The whole of the fee specified in paragraph (1) is payable irrespective of whether the application for restoration of an annotation is granted.

*Other fees*

**Administration**

- 33.** (1) The fee for re-processing a payment which has not been honoured by the bank or card-issuer of a person paying a fee specified in any of the preceding provisions of this Part is £20.
- (2) The fee for processing an application for the entry of premises in Part 3 of the Register where the application has been returned to the applicant for additional information more than once is £48 and that fee is payable in addition to the application fee payable under rule 24.
- (3) The fee for making an alteration to an entry in Part 3 of the Register to record a change of ownership of a retail pharmacy business carried on at premises entered in that Part of the Register is £79.
- (4) Where a credit card is used to pay a fee (“the primary fee”) specified in any of the preceding provisions of this Part—
- (a) an additional fee for processing the payment shall be added to the primary fee; and
  - (b) the amount to be added is to be determined as 2 per cent. of the amount of the primary fee.

Given under the official seal of the General Pharmaceutical Council this [insert] day of [insert] 2015.

## Appendix 2: Our fees policy

- 1 The fees we set must cover the costs of delivering our regulatory functions and ensure the financial resilience of the organisation so that pharmacy standards can continue to be maintained.
- 2 We will allocate revenues generated from fees in a way which enables us to meet our statutory purpose and regulatory functions, avoiding 'regulatory creep', where standards, guidance and regulation can become complex, unclear, confusing or contradictory.
- 3 We will set fees for different registrant groups in a way which considers a range of factors including: costs of regulation; relative risk factors where known, and comparable fees for other regulated professional groups. We are committed to considering these factors, but recognise that, given the complexity of these issues, there is no 'perfect' formula for decision making.
- 4 We will balance the above factors with the need to minimise complexity in our fees structure, which can increase costs overall.
- 5 We will ensure we consider external factors, including economic factors, when setting fees, alongside the need to carry out our statutory functions effectively.
- 6 We will periodically review these principles and ensure that we set out clearly any significant change in factors which either allows us, or requires us to reduce or increase fees in future.
- 7 We will continually strive to identify efficiencies in our regulatory operations and set these out when consulting on fees.
- 8 We will seek, through effective future planning and consideration of external economic factors, to avoid large fluctuations in fees, up or down, in future years.

## How to respond

The consultation asks a series of questions, which are set out here.

You can respond to the consultation in a number of ways:

- go to [www.pharmacyregulation.org/fees2015](http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/fees2015) and respond online
- email [consultations@pharmacyregulation.org](mailto:consultations@pharmacyregulation.org)
- complete the consultation response form and send it to:

**Draft 2015 fees rules consultation response  
Governance team  
General Pharmaceutical Council  
25 Canada Square  
London  
E14 5LQ**

You can attach extra pages if you need more space to respond. Please say which questions any extra pages apply to.

Responses must be received by  
**Friday 15 May 2015**

Unless you ask us to, we will not acknowledge your response.

## How we will use your response

Your response to this consultation will be used to help us make decisions on the fees rules 2015, and may be published in full or in a summary of responses. If we quote from any responses to the consultation we will make the source anonymous. If you want your response to remain confidential, you should explain why you believe the information you have given is confidential. However, we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

Information in responses, including personal information, may have to be published or disclosed under the access to information regimes (usually the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If your response is covered by an automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system this will not, in itself, be binding on the GPhC.

Any diversity monitoring information you give us will be made anonymous and used to review the effectiveness of our consultation process. It will not form part of a published response.

# Consultation response form

## Response to the consultation on the draft 2015 fees rules for the General Pharmaceutical Council

### Publishing responses:

If you want your response to remain confidential, you should explain why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. However, we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

- Please remove my name from my published response.

Please tell us if you have any concerns with us publishing any part of your response:

## Background questions

First, we would like to ask you for some background information. This will help us to understand the views of specific groups, individuals and organisations, and will allow us to better respond to those views.

Are you responding:

- as an individual – please go to section A
- on behalf of an organisation – please go to section B

## Section A - Responding as an individual

**Please tell us your:**

your name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Where do you live?**

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- other (please give details)

**Are you responding as:**

- a pharmacy professional? – please go to section A1
- a member of the public?
- other (please give details)

## Section A1 - Pharmacy professionals

**Are you:**

- a pharmacist– please go to section A1
- a pharmacy technician

**Please choose the option below which best describes the area in which you the area you mainly work in:**

- community pharmacy
- hospital pharmacy
- primary care organisation
- pharmacy education and training
- pharmaceutical industry
- other (please give details)

If you work in community pharmacy, are you:

- a pharmacy owner?
- an employee?
- a self-employed locum?

## Section B: Responding on behalf of an organisation

**Please tell us your:**

your name: \_\_\_\_\_

job title: \_\_\_\_\_

organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

a contact name for enquiries: \_\_\_\_\_

contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is your organisation a:**

- pharmacy organisation?
- non-pharmacy organisation?

**Please choose the option below which best describes your organisation:**

- body or organisation representing professionals
- body or organisation representing patients or the public
- body or organisation representing a trade or industry
- community pharmacy
- corporate multiple pharmacy
- independent pharmacy
- NHS organisation or group
- research, education or training organisation
- government department or organisation
- regulatory body
- other (please give details)

# Consultation questions

We are particularly interested in your views on the following points, although we welcome comments on any issues that you want to raise about the draft fees rules.

1. In working out the proposed fees, the GPhC has carried out a review to make sure that the costs of regulation are more proportionately met by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises. Do you agree with this approach? (see sections 3 to 9 of the consultation document)

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- neither agree nor disagree
- agree
- strongly agree
- not useful

Do you have any further comments in response to question 1?

2. Do you agree with our proposal to increase the renewal fee for pharmacists by £10, from £240 to £250? (see sections 3 to 9 of the consultation document)

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- neither agree nor disagree
- agree
- strongly agree
- not useful

Do you have any further comments in response to question 2?

**3.** Do you agree with our proposal to increase the renewal fee for pharmacy technicians by £10, from £108 to £118?

(see sections 3 to 9 of the consultation document)

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- neither agree nor disagree
- agree
- strongly agree
- not useful

Do you have any further comments in response to question 3?

**4.** Do you agree with our proposal to increase the renewal fee for pharmacy premises by £20, from £221 to £241?

(see sections 3 to 9 of the consultation document)

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- neither agree nor disagree
- agree
- strongly agree
- not useful

Do you have any further comments in response to question 4?

**5.** Do you agree that our proposals are in line with our fees policy?  
(see section 6 of the consultation document)

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- neither agree nor disagree
- agree
- strongly agree
- not useful

Do you have any further comments in response to question 5?

6. Do you agree with our proposals to change the application for entry and annotations fee categories?  
(see section 7 of the consultation document)

- strongly disagree
- disagree
- neither agree nor disagree
- agree
- strongly agree
- not useful

Do you have any further comments in response to question 6?

7. Do you have any other comments you want to make?

# Equality monitoring

At the GPhC, we are committed to promoting equality, valuing diversity and being inclusive in all our work as a health professions regulator, and to making sure we meet our equality duties.

We want to make sure everyone has an opportunity to respond to our consultation on fees. This equality-monitoring form will give us useful information to check that this happens. You do not have to fill it in, and your answers here will not be linked to your consultation responses.

## What is your ethnic group?

Please tick one box

### White

- British  Irish  Other

### Black or Black British

- Caribbean  African  Other

### Mixed

- White and black Caribbean  White and black African  
 White and Asian  other mixed (please give more information in the box below)

### Asian or Asian British

- Indian  Pakistani  
 Bangladeshi  other Asian (please give more information in the box below)

### Chinese or Chinese British

- Other ethnic group** (please give more information in the box below)

## What is your age?

- Under 20  20 – 29 years  30 – 39 years  
 40 – 49 years  50 – 59 years  60 + years

## What is your gender?

Please tick one box

- male  female  other

## What is your sexual orientation?

Please tick one box

- heterosexual  lesbian / gay  bisexual  other

## What is your religion?

Please tick one box

- None  Christian  Buddhist  Hindu  
 Jewish  Muslim  Sikh  
 Other (please give more information in the box below)

## Do you consider that you have a disability?

Please tick one box

- Yes  No

## General Pharmaceutical Council

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**25 Canada Square,  
London  
E14 5LQ**

T: 020 3713 8000

W: [pharmacyregulation.org](http://pharmacyregulation.org)

E: [info@pharmacyregulation.org](mailto:info@pharmacyregulation.org)



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