

**Health Professions Council
4 October 2006**

Draft Fee Rise Consultation Document (Regulatory Impact Statement)

Executive Summary and Recommendations

Introduction

The draft fee rise consultation document has been included as an agenda item for the Council meeting. Appendix 1 of that document is listed as a document to follow. Please see appendix 1 attached.

Decision

The Council is asked to read the attached document in conjunction with agenda item 9, enclosure 6.

Background information

See www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Resource implications

None

Financial implications

None

Appendices

None

Date of paper

29 September 2006

Appendix 1

Regulatory Impact Assessment

Guidance from the Cabinet Office suggests that a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) should be carried out for all policy changes which could affect the public or private sectors, charities, the voluntary sector or small businesses. That guidance makes clear that RIAs should be proportionate to the changes being proposed. For complex regulatory changes the RIA may be lengthy but, as an example, the guidance indicates that a RIA is not necessary where statutory fees are being increased in line with inflation by means of a predetermined formula.

Although the proposals in this document would not vary fees by means of a predetermined index-linking formula, the majority of the proposed changes would be limited to increasing fees broadly in line with inflation. In those cases where it is proposed that a fee rises by more than inflation, the change is being proposed in order to reduce the level of cross-subsidy among registrants and to ensure that, so far as possible, the fees charged for particular services properly reflect the cost to HPC of providing those services.

Fees are paid by individual registrants rather than by organisations and, as noted above, the majority of the proposed fee changes would only increase costs in line with inflation. Where it is proposed that fees rise by more than inflation, such as in relation to fees for first registration and the scrutiny of international applications, these are one-off costs which in most cases would only be paid once during a registrant's career.

On the basis that most fees would only rise by inflation and thus be cost-neutral in real terms, that fees are payable by individuals (and in most cases tax deductible) and that those fees which would rise by more than inflation are generally one-off lifetime costs, the Council has concluded that these proposals are very unlikely to have any significant impact on the public or private sectors, charities, the voluntary sector or small businesses."