

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar
Health and Care Professions Council
Park House
184-186 Kennington Park Road
London, SE11 4BU

28 November 2018

Dear Mr Seale

As professional bodies, trade unions and organisations representing the many health and care occupations covered by the HCPC register, we are writing to ask you to reconsider imposing the disproportionate annual registration fee increase planned for 2019.

We are concerned that your consultation, launched in September, proposes to increase the annual registration fee from £90 to £106 – a massive 18 per cent. This represents an increase of more than six times the current rate of inflation. Members on your register had a fee increase imposed as recently as 2015, meaning that if this additional increase goes ahead, HCPC annual registration fees will have risen by nearly 40 per cent since 2014.

While we understand and support the need for regulators to invest in prevention, we are not convinced that such a steep increase in fees is justified, especially over a period when health and care professionals have seen little or no increase in their own incomes.

We are concerned that moves to increase the registration fee at this time are a direct response to the HCPC's predicted loss of income when social workers in England transfer to a new regulator in 2019. As you will be aware, social workers account for more than half of all fitness to practise cases the HCPC deals with – the HCPC's single largest area of expenditure. Consequently, when social workers leave the register in 2019, we would expect the HCPC's costs to significantly decrease. Whatever the impact, we do not feel it is appropriate for health staff to pay for political decisions about the regulation of the social work profession.

The NHS is currently under enormous pressure and staff shortages are becoming increasingly apparent throughout the health professions, so anything that could act as a disincentive for those wanting to join or remain in the service and those wishing to re-join on a part-time basis must be avoided.

We therefore urge you not to impose this increase but to look at ways to achieve appropriate efficiencies that do not compromise fulfilment of HCPC's role or the quality of HCPC stakeholder engagement. It is important that health staff can be reassured that there will be no more arbitrary or avoidable increases in their registration fees.

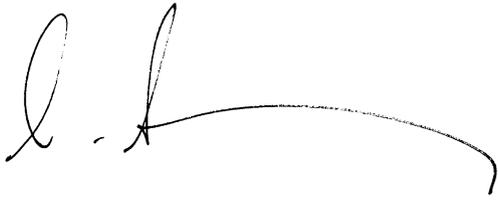
Yours sincerely



Academy for Healthcare Science
Brendan Cooper, President



Allied Health Professions Federation
Parmjit Dhanda, Chair



British Psychological Society
Sarb Bajwa, Chief Executive



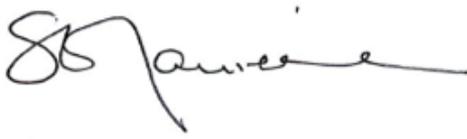
Society of Radiographers
Paul Bromley, Regional Officer



Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
Professor Karen Middleton, Chief Executive



UNISON
Sara Gorton, Head of Health



College of Podiatry
Steve Jamieson, Chief Executive



Unite the Union
Jane Beach, Lead Professional Officer for Regulation



Royal College of Occupational Therapists
Julia Scott, Chief Executive