

Clare Haughey MSP Convener, Health, Social Care & Sport Committee The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP

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Dear Ms Haughey,

Following our previous letter to you in October 2024, we are now writing as the secondary legislation that implements the HCPC's proposed fee rise has been passed by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, and will therefore be coming before your Committee shortly.

The HCPC is proposing a small increase of £6.98 to the registration fee, taking the new annual fee to £123.34. This is equivalent to just over 13p per week and the HCPC would continue to have one of the lowest registrant fees of all the professional health and care regulators.

This new fee follows an extensive consultation with Scottish registrants, professional bodies, trade unions, and the public between April and June 2024 as well as extensive discussions with the Scottish Government. Due to the nature of our registrant renewal cycles, the majority of our registrants would not start paying the increased fee until 2026 or 2027.

The proposed increase is the minimum amount necessary to continue to fund our programme of critical investments.

This includes maintaining delivery of statutory registration, fitness to practise, education, and other regulatory responsibilities within performance standards. This has become crucial given a 26% increase in FTP volumes, an experience in line with most other healthcare regulators.

It will also allow the HCPC to make essential improvements over the next three years, including enhancing our registration and education services, contributing to decision making on the future of the health and care workforce, and supporting the continuous professional development of our registrants.

The proposed fee rise will therefore play an important part in fulfilling our statutory duty to protect patients and service users in Scotland.

We would be happy to meet with you prior to the Committee considering the legislation and provide any additional information that you require. If a meeting would be helpful, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Your sincerely,

Christine Elliott Chair of the Council

Christi Elliott

Bernie O'Reilly Chief Executive and Registrar