

Jo Swinson CBE MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ms Swinson

12 March 2019

Thank you for your letter dated 8 March outlining a number of your constituent's concerns regarding our increase in registration fees.

At its meeting on 14 February 2019, the HCPC Council reluctantly agreed to proposals to increase the registration renewal fee by £16 (less than £1.40 per month) from £90 to £106 per year.

In reaching its decision, Council committed to continuing to identify cost savings wherever possible and to explore further income generation opportunities.

This decision was carefully considered and followed an in-depth analysis of the responses to an earlier consultation. Council recognised the level of opposition to the proposals and explored the concerns of many of the organisations and individual registrants who responded.

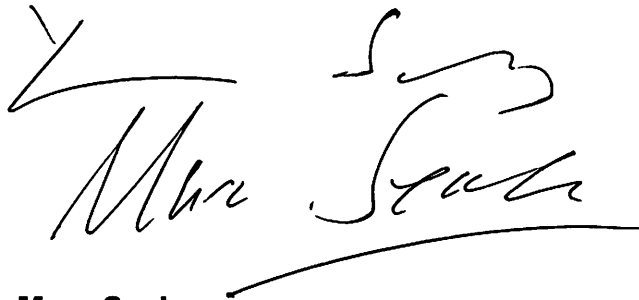
However, Council also recognised the need to safeguard the HCPC's financial sustainability, to ensure that it can continue to fulfil its statutory role to protect the public and its commitment to meet the expectations of stakeholders.

Your letter specifically referred to our fee increase in 2014 as well as 2019. Since 2014 we have seen a number of external factors out of our control which have forced us to take action. The transfer of social work regulation to a new regulator, Social Work England, will see our income fall, while the remarkable surge in both the number of concerns raised to us and the increasing complexity of cases we receive has seen an increase in our costs. That, on top of inflation and acknowledging it will take two to three years, due to the cycle of re-registration, prior to the HCPC feeling the benefit of any fee change, led to the decision being taken.

I appreciate that this decision is disappointing to you and your constituents. However, I want to assure you that Council has not taken this action lightly, and considered at length responses from a wide range of individuals and organisations when making their decision. However, they reluctantly felt that to

maintain our vital public protection role they had little choice but to take the action they did.

I hope that the above has addressed the concerns raised. Please do get in touch should you wish to discuss this further.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Seale', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar