

# Consultation on changes to our fees - April 2024

## Individual or Organisation

Are you responding to this consultation on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

## Organisation Respondents Details

Please tell us the name of your organisation?

Royal College of Podiatry

Please select the category below that best describes your organisation.

Professional Body

Where is your organisation active?

UK-wide

Please tell us the contact email for your organisation

lawrence.ambrose@rcpod.org.uk

## Consultation questions

Question 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the rationale we have set out for increasing our fees by the minimum necessary amount?

If you would like to give reasons for your answer, or suggest alternative options or mitigations, you may do so below.

Disagree

**Comment:**

Whilst we understand the need to increase fees to mitigate inflationary costs. The proposed fee increase will generate over £2.2m. We would suggest is higher than the required inflationary increase. Whilst all professions pay one blanket fee, the HCPC may wish to look at the reducing the fee for those registrants who work part time, and whose wage is below an agreed threshold.

Question 2: Given the rationale, to what extent do you support the fee increase proposal?

If you would like to give reasons for your answer, or suggest alternative options or mitigations, you may do so below.

Disagree

**Comments:**

Whilst the RCPod 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 podiatrists and other AHPs have seen little or no increase in their own incomes.

Margins within the independent sector are reducing, as costs for materials, fuel, and rent increase exponentially. Our members' patients are also feeling the effects of the current cost of living crisis, they are, therefore, unable to pass the costs on to them. The majority of our members in the NHS are on lower bandings, and their pay increases have been behind inflation for the past 10 years.

Approximately 75% of registered podiatrists are female, and many of these registrants work part time, whilst juggling caring responsibilities, yet have to pay the same flat fee as those who work full time.

The RCPod would be interested to know if the HCPC have done an analysis of their Fitness to Practice costs since social workers left HCPC registration, and whether this has freed up any resource.

Question 3: In addition to the equality impacts set out in the Equality Impact Assessment, can you identify any further impacts relating to protected characteristics that we should consider?

Protected characteristics consist of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, ethnicity, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

If you would like to make any suggestions about how any negative equality impacts you have identified could be mitigated, you may do so here.

No additional comments.

## Submit response

This is the end of the survey. Please select "Submit my responses" once you are ready to end the session.

Submit my response.