

## Welcome to update



Welcome to the second edition of our regulatory update in 2016.

This edition explores a number of issues including an update on the new registration fees, record levels of compliance with CPD requirements and the positive response to our drive towards online retention.

We also let you know about our attendance at party political conferences, introduce you to a new member of staff and inform you about the right language and process for re-applying or being restored on to the Register.

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### Review previous editions

You can read previous editions of our Regulatory Update [here](#)

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# Update on new registration fees

**Following a public consultation, which ran from 30 November 2015 to 25 January 2016, and after full consideration of the responses, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI made the *The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016* on 14 March 2016. The Regulations proposed to increase certain registrants' fees to enable the organisation to continue to carry out its statutory functions.**



The Regulations, which passed without objection by the Northern Ireland Assembly's negative resolution procedure, came into operation on 1 June 2016 and were considered by the Northern Ireland Assembly Health Committee on 9 June 2016.

Speaking about the fee increase, President of the Pharmaceutical Society NI, Dr Jim Livingstone said:

"I appreciate that nobody welcomes an increase in fees, however, with the last increase being in 2009, we are pleased that we have been able to keep the changes considerably below the rate of inflation. With the regulator gaining new powers in 2012, the costs of regulation have gone up considerably and whilst we have been able to meet the majority of

these through efficiency savings, inevitably we have had to cover some of the additional costs of regulating the pharmacy profession, through an increase in certain fees.

"This process was further complicated by the discovery of historical anomalies in the legislative basis for some fees. I would like to take this opportunity to again assure all registrants and pre-registrant students that we are continuing to work to regularise our entire fees structure and provide those who pay a fee, with a fair fee framework, which is accessible and transparent".

The amended fees fall into five broad categories:

- Registration fees for pharmaceutical chemists
- Registration fees for students
- Retention fees for pharmaceutical chemists
- The penalty fee for failing to pay the annual retention fee
- Pre-registration examination fees

All consultation documents and proposals can be found here:

<http://www.psni.org.uk/publications/consultations/>

The consultation report, which summarises consultee submissions and outlines the Council's response, can be found here: <http://www.psni.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/PSNI-Fees-Consultation-2016-Report-and-Council-response-Final.pdf>

A copy of the approved Regulations can be found here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2016/170/made/data.pdf>

## Pharmacists heading for record year of CPD compliance

**Carrying out Continued Professional Development (CPD) is crucial for professionals to maintain high standards of practice, skills development and the delivery of safe services to the public and 2015-16 looks set to be a record year for pharmacists complying with their statutory CPD requirements in Northern Ireland.**

Only seven notices for removal due to non-submission have been issued (0.3% of registrants). This compares to 31 notices of removal and 26 actual removals for non-compliance in 2014/-15.

In November 2015, the Pharmaceutical Society NI introduced a new online CPD process for the pharmacy pro-

fession. We are very pleased with how registrants have engaged with the new CPD system, with record numbers, over 98%, of CPD portfolios being submitted online.

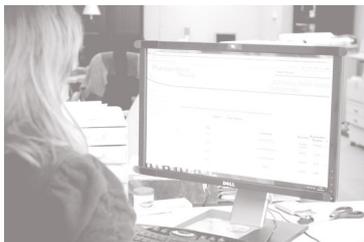
231 registrants (10%) are having their CPD portfolios sampled and assessed as part of our quality assurance and audit process - the assessment results will be available in August 2016.

The public should take confidence from these record levels of compliance in relation to pharmacists' CPD in Northern Ireland.



## Positive response to online retention drive

As of the 15 June 2016, 83.5% of registrants had paid their retention fee online, compared to 40% last year. This is an extremely positive response to the organisation's drive to get registrants to switch to the online system.



Reflecting on the positive figures, Mark Neale, Head of Public Affairs stated:

"This is great news. We shifted focus to online retention as a response to positive feedback from registrants. In our Annual Survey some 84% of respondents who had used the online system, stated that it was more convenient than the paper based approach, whilst 97% of respondents found the online system either very easy to understand or easy to understand.

"Based on additional feedback, we have further updated the system, removing all charges from payments made by debit cards; making this a more attractive option again. Registrants now have a more convenient process, which reduces their paper trail, and comes at no extra cost.

"We would like to continue with this progress and we encourage as many registrants as possible to use the online system".

**If you have any questions concerning online retention or registration in general please contact Tracey McLoughlin, Registration Coordinator:**

[Tracy.McLoughlin@psni.org.uk](mailto:Tracy.McLoughlin@psni.org.uk)

## Regulator attends party conferences

In conjunction with a number of healthcare regulators, the Pharmaceutical Society NI has attended three party political conferences in 2016. The purpose is to promote the benefits of regulation in protecting the public and upholding the reputation of the pharmacy profession.



The organisation attended the Alliance Party conference on 5 March 2016, the SDLP conference on 12 March 2016 and Sinn Fein's Ard fHeis on 25 and 26 April 2016 in Dublin.

Speaking about the attendance at the party conferences, Head of Public Affairs, Mark Neale said:

"As a devolved regulator it is vitally important that our elected representatives are aware of the work we do to protect the public and uphold the reputation of the pharmacy profession.

"We undertake this work in conjunction with other regulators, both healthcare professions and systems regulators. This provides an excellent platform for keeping public safety in healthcare high on the agenda of the people who are charged with making the strategic decisions about the local NHS".

## Council publishes response to the future of pharmacy regulation consultation

At the Council meeting of 5 July 2016, the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society NI agreed that their response to the Department of Health's (NI) consultation "the Future of Pharmacy Regulation in Northern Ireland" should be published.

Below is a copy of that response as delivered to the Department of Health on Friday 10 June 2016.

[PSNI Council – Review of Pharmacy Regulation in Northern Ireland](#)

## Re-applying to the Register or being restored – getting the terminology right

There are a number of scenarios by which a pharmacist may leave the Register of pharmaceutical Chemists in Northern Ireland. How you leave the Register dictates the process you must follow to apply to get back onto the Register.

For more information on applying to re-applying to the Register please contact Tracy McLoughlin, Registration Coordinator:  
[Tracy.McLoughlin@psni.org.uk](mailto:Tracy.McLoughlin@psni.org.uk) or  
[registration@psni.org.uk](mailto:registration@psni.org.uk)

Type	When	Apply to	Notes	Decision made by
Re-applying to join the Register	After voluntary removal from the Register	The Registrar	The Registrar will place an applicant's name on the Register on receipt of a completed application form and the payment of the registration fee. Subject to checking CPD records and a Certificate of Current Professional Status (CCPS), if appropriate	The Registrar
Re-applying to join the Register	Non-payment of fees	The Registrar	The Registrar will place an applicant's name on the Register on receipt of a completed application form and on the payment of the registration fee, a penalty fee as described in regulations and a CCPS, if appropriate	The Registrar
Restoration to the Register	If you have been removed for failure to complete your legal CPD requirements	The Registrar	An application for restoration will only be considered on receipt of a completed application form and on the completion of 30 hours of Continuing Education requirements, defined in the CPD framework and the payment of the appropriate fee.	The Registrar
Restoration to the Register	If you have been removed from the Register by the Statutory Committee for Fitness to Practise issue.	The Registrar	An application cannot be made before the expiration of 5 years from and including the date of removal; or within 12 months of the date of an earlier application to be restored. Restoration process is defined in the FTP regulations	The Statutory Committee

## New member of staff

On the 20 June 2016 Daniel Young joined the Pharmaceutical Society of NI as Pre-Registration lead.



The pre-registration training programme provides trainees with the practical knowledge and skills that they need to cement their years of education and training in their MPharm degree. The aim of pre-registration training is to ensure that when trainees join the register they are fit to carry out all the duties of a practising pharmacist. Daniel's role will involve facilitating the pre-registration training

programme and providing a climate of care for both trainees and tutors during the training year.

A graduate of Queen's University Belfast, Daniel has over 20 years' experience in Community Pharmacy and has been involved in many external pharmacy roles including CPD assessor, practice support pharmacist and has qualified as an Independent Prescriber. In his previous role as Store Manager for Boots Daniel's store was nominated for the 2016 Chemist & Druggist awards 'Pharmacy Store of the year'.