



## **Delay in pharmacist retention process 2020**

**31 March 2020**

We are aware of the many pressures on the sector at the moment arising from the current Covid-19 outbreak. We want to support the profession during this difficult time and our aim is to ensure that the regulatory burden is minimised to that necessary to uphold standards, protect the public and maintain trust in the profession.

We recognise that we seek, at annual retention, information that is necessary to both provide assurance around continuing fitness to practise and to provide workforce planners, commissioners and employers with information on the make-up and dispersal of those on the Register.

In order to reduce that burden at this time, Council have decided to extend the 2019 / 2020 registration year, previously due to finish on 31 May 2020 to now finish on 31 August 2020. This means that we will not be sending retention notices during April / May and that all those currently on the Register will remain so for an additional three months without the need to make returns or payments.

The following registration year will commence on 01 September 2020 and run until the normal year end, 31 May 2021. For clarity, we will not be increasing the fee for the longer current year nor reducing it for the following shorter year, in accordance with fee regulations. No-one will, therefore, have to pay more than they would otherwise have done.

It is important at this time that you continue to practice within your competence and ensure that you take appropriate action if you evidence any issue which may affect your fitness to practise.

We hope this will ease some of the bureaucratic burden that you may be under. We would emphasise, this does not affect the recent statement on CPD. The submission date for CPD will be notified, as previously communicated, 2 months in advance of the required date.