

25 11 2024

## **Response to PSA fees Consultation 2025/2026**

I thank you for your recent meeting with us in which you outlined the detail of the 2025/2026 business case and intention to increase fees.

In respect of the questions outlined please find our response below.

### **1. Do you think that our proposals for our work in 2025/26 are reasonable?**

The Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland are in agreement that the business priorities outlined in the proposed business plan are reasonable and note the anticipated effect to be 12.2% increase in fees, however we understood from our meeting the Society as a small regulator may be charged a lower rate, yet this differential apportioning of the fee is not what is outlined in the briefing. Clarity on this point would be much appreciated.

### **2. Are you aware of any legislative changes for example Section 60 orders you are proposing that will impact on the Authority in 2025/26?**

The Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland intends to collaborate with the Department of Health to amend or update the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 to regulate Pharmacy Technicians as a new group of professionals. This work is expected to be completed during the 2025/2026 financial year, and it is expected that over 4 years we will register 1000 additional professionals and create a new register of Pharmacy Technicians.

### **3. Do you think that our assumptions regarding the number of Section 29 cases we will receive are reasonable? Can you provide us with estimates of the number of cases you will conclude during the year ahead?**

We do not anticipate any Section 29 cases being referred to the Standards Authority this year. However, we are aware that the Professional Standards Authority intends to audit our fitness-to-practice processes, which may identify cases for review.

### **4. Do you think that our assumptions regarding the recovery of costs are reasonable?**

I confirm we believe that the rationale provided appears to be reasonable.

### **5. Do you agree with our proposed budget?**

We agree with the proposed budget. The Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland will need to increase our own fees in the 2025/2026 year and will incorporate these assumptions, for an increase in our fees paid, within that programme of work.

I thank you again for the opportunity to understand your rationale and business priorities for the forthcoming year.

Kind Regards

Joan Duffy  
Caretaker Chief Executive Officer