

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (General) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

**2016 No. 170**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by Article 5(1) of the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976. It has been approved by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland in accordance with Article 25A(2) of that Order and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The Statutory rule will bring forward regulations to increase the fees payable in respect of (i) registration as a pharmaceutical chemist and as a student (ii) retention as a member of the Society and (iii) registration examination and re-examination and in substituting regulation 4 of the principal Regulations, there are no distinct categories of retention fee for non-residents, over 65s and over 70s.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland is the regulatory body for pharmacists in Northern Ireland with a primary purpose to ensure that practising pharmacists are fit to practice, keep their skills and knowledge up to date and deliver high quality safe care to patients. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland undertook a comprehensive review of its fee structure and the legislative basis for such fees that it does, or proposes to, charge and consulted members accordingly.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland launched a consultation on their fee structure on 30th November 2015. This ran for eight weeks and closed on 25th January 2016. All pharmacists on the register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in Northern Ireland were informed both in writing and via email of the consultation, in addition the consultation was advertised on the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's website and through its social media channels. A total of 27 responses were received. Following full consideration of all responses the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society Northern Ireland concluded that the proposed Regulations will properly provide the required financial resources for the organisation for the year 2016/17 and only minor amendments were made to the wording in the Regulations.

## **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1. The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland has screened this Statutory Rule for the purposes of s75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and has concluded that an Equality Impact Assessment is not necessary.

## **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. The Regulation does not require a Regulatory Impact Assessment as only negligible impact on small business is identified.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. Negligible. The measures being introduced in the draft regulations do represent an additional cost to the registrants, however these additional costs are judged to be necessary for the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland to perform its statutory functions.

## **8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 8.1. The proposed Statutory Rule is compatible with s24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **9. EU Implications**

- 9.1. Not applicable.

## **10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

- 10.1. Not applicable.

## **11. Additional Information**

- 11.1. Not applicable