General Pharmaceutical Council

FAQ on fees increases from September 2026

Why are the fees increasing again?

- From January- April 2025, the GPhC consulted on increasing renewal fees by 6% from September 2025, and a further 6% from September 2026. At its **July 2025 meeting** the Council of the GPhC agreed to increase fees by 6% from September 2025, and decided to postpone making a decision on the fees to be charged from September 2026, to enable the Council to reflect further.
- The Council has now determined that this fee increase is necessary, as our workload and costs have continued to significantly increase as we regulate in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.
- We have seen a striking increase in the number and complexity of concerns raised by the public and others, with almost 9,750 concerns received in 2025-26 so far, an increase of 77% since 2023-24.
- Inspection activity has also increased by over 60% since 2023/24 with almost 2000 inspections expected to be delivered this year, and inspectors also providing guidance and support to pharmacies outside of inspections as well.
- Updating fees now ensures we can continue to regulate effectively and protect the public in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.

How is the GPhC funded?

- The GPhC is funded by the fees we charge, which include annual registration renewal fees for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy premises
- When we were set up, Parliament and the Scottish Parliament decided that the people and organisations being regulated must bear the costs directly. This means the cost of pharmacy regulation is funded by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners.
- The Pharmacy Order 2010 requires us to consult on proposed changes to the fee rules.

When does the latest fee increase take effect?

- The fee increase of 6% will come into effect from September 2026.
- The first pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy owners to pay the new fee from September 2026 will be anyone who has a registration expiry date of 14 December 2026. A renewal notification will be sent to you in September, and you will be required to renew by 14 October 2026. The fee you pay is based on your renewal date and paying earlier would not mean paying the current year rate.
- The fee for pharmacists will increase by £17 a year for pharmacists to £310, £8 a year for pharmacy technicians to £146 and £25 for pharmacy premises to £441. This equates to £1.42 a month for pharmacists, 67p a month for pharmacy technicians and £2.08 a month for pharmacy premises.

Why can't you reduce your costs instead of raising fees again?

- After reviewing our financial position, our Council decided it was necessary to increase the fees from September 2026.
- In previous years we have kept fees for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians well below the rate of inflation, freezing fees over several years.
- We have already delivered savings of £700,000 and set a target to make total savings of at least £1.5 million by 2028, so we can respond to the significant increases in demand and avoid large fee increases in the future.
- Despite extensive efficiencies, the organisation cannot continue to carry out its increasing regulatory responsibilities effectively without making this increase now. We need to ensure that we have the finances to undertake the work that we need to do.

What will happen in future years?

- We are committed to making sure the organisation delivers its vital work as efficiently as possible.
- In future years, we are planning to move to a more regular and incremental approach to fee increases, aligned with inflation, to avoid the need for large increases.
- We are also going to review the way pharmacy premises fees are set to reflect changes in the sector. We will hold a public consultation on any future changes in due course.

What was the point of the consultation and delaying the decision for 2026, when you have still gone ahead with your planned increase?

- We are required by the Pharmacy Order to consult on proposed changes to the fee rules.
- At **our July 2025 meeting**, our Council carefully considered all the feedback received through the consultation before making their final decisions.
- After reviewing the GPhC's financial position, the Council concluded it was necessary to raise the fees by 6% in 2025.
- The consultation had proposed there should be further changes to fees in September 2026.
- The Council carefully considered the concerns raised through the consultation. In response to that feedback, the Council decided to postpone making a decision on the fees to be charged in September 2026, to enable the Council to carry out a further review. The **papers and minutes are available on our website.**
- After reviewing our financial position, our Council decided at its March 2026 meeting that it was necessary to increase the fees from September 2026.
- We know any fee increase will always be unwelcome, and we understand people's concerns about a fee increase during a difficult economic climate.
- We have listened to people's feedback, including that we should make savings to help minimise fee increases. We have already taken steps to keep proposed increases as low as possible, such as using our reserves, and making savings, in order to keep any future fee increase as low as possible, to reduce the impact on registrants.
- We have also committed to making £1.5million of savings by 2027/28 to help us to avoid making large fee increases in the future.

Can pharmacists and pharmacy technicians claim back the tax on their registration fees?

- We have created **a guide to explain how pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can claim tax relief** from HMRC on their GPhC annual registration fee, saving a pharmacist on the basic income tax rate £62 a year and a pharmacy technician £29.20 on the fees for September 2026 onwards
- We will also be writing to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to explain how to claim this tax relief. If they have not already claimed in previous years, they can claim tax relief for this year and the last four tax years.

Have you considered reducing fees for registrants who work part time or will only work part the year, for example if they are on parental leave?

- In 2021, we held a **public consultation on our approach to setting fees**, which asked for feedback on whether some registrants should pay reduced fees.
- Some respondents to the consultation raised that the fee increases will have a disproportionate impact on specific groups such as part-time workers, those on low salaries, or those who are on parental leave.
- Most of the responses to the 2021 consultation were in favour of retaining a flat fee structure, as it was felt that this was both the fairest and simplest approach for registrants and for the GPhC. We believe that this approach is still the fairest approach for all.
- The introduction of differential fees would be a disproportionate approach in terms of fairness and cost. The cost of regulating the individual is the same irrespective of their working arrangements.
- To raise the same amount of money as a non-differential fee increase, we would need to increase the registration fee for a full time pharmacist or pharmacy technician to off-set the reduced fee for a part-time pharmacist or pharmacy technician.

Can you provide a breakdown of how you use our fees?

- We provided a breakdown of how we use the fees on p7 of the **fees consultation document,** and an updated breakdown in our **Council paper about the fees increase.**
- We provide more detail on our expenditure in our annual reports and accounts, which are published each year on our website.

Have you considered enabling people to pay by monthly direct debit, so they can spread the costs over the year?

- We already offer people the option to pay using Direct Debit, either through a one-off annual fee or four equal payments every three months.
- Offering the four equal payments every three months helps people to spread the cost over the year.
- We don't offer monthly payments, as processing monthly payments would increase our costs, and this increased cost would need to be passed onto the people paying fees.

Why do you not charge pharmacy premises more, to reflect changes in the sector?

- We are planning to review and consult on the way pharmacy premises fees are set, to reflect changes in the sector.