



**Postgraduate Medical Education
and Training Board (PMETB)**

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Dear Colleague

Fees Consultation

I am writing to inform you of PMETB's response to the 71 submissions we received to our fees consultation.

The PMETB Board have asked me to extend our thanks to all those organisations and individuals who sent in their views.

The responses were varied with many agreeing that the principles PMETB laid out in the consultation were consistent with the proposals put forward. However, there was significant variance on other aspects. The main issues raised were:

- Questions about the need for financial independence as a pre-requisite to the independence of the Board.
- Issues about who pays, with considerable support for a mixed funding of PMETB's activities including trainees, the service and the Departments of Health.
- Concerns about the scale of the proposed increase in relation to the fee regime to March 2006 with calls for either postponement or staging of the increase. In particular, reference is made to the fact that the proposed fees are based on an imperfect understanding of our cost structure after only two months of operating.

A summary of the main thrust of the responses is attached. After careful consideration we have decided, in consultation with the four Departments of Health, that aiming to stage the rise to the proposed fees over two to three years instead of one, would be a proportionate and appropriate way to respond.

	Current fees from 30 th September 2005 To 31 st March 2006	Fees proposed in the consultation for 1 st April 2006 to 31 st March 2007	Actual fees from 1 st April 2006 to 31 st March 2007
CCT Application	£250	£750	£500
Article 11/14 Application	£700	£1250	£950

The figures for 2007/08 and beyond will be reviewed at the end of each year in light of inflation and operating experience and other factors.

This decision was reached after taking into account particular points made including those referring to the scale of the increases, that the fee proposals have been made so early in PMETB's operational life and that for trainees about to complete their training the increase will have come with little warning.

Staging the fee rise will enable us to move more gradually towards full cost recovery through fees and charges by 2009/2010. PMETB remains, as outlined in the consultation document, committed to the principle of financial self-sufficiency as critical to achieving independence and meeting its statutory objectives including to 'promote and develop' postgraduate medical education.

Additionally, we are committed to the principle, as also outlined in the consultation, that the beneficiary should pay. The two main beneficiaries from certification are those receiving Article 11/14 equivalence assessments and those receiving CCTs. However, as raised in many responses, others also benefit from doctors becoming GPs and Specialists, and we are committed actively to explore other ways of generating revenue from the services we provide including income from the NHS.

During the consultation we made clear that, whilst, we wished to move to financial independence, the pace at which we achieved this was dictated by the reduction in funding from the Departments of Health. Our proposals on fees were based on information received from the Departments in October last year.

However, after consultation, the Departments of Health have, in principle, agreed to make additional funding of £1.4m available to us for 2006/7. This has enabled us to stage the fee increase and means the DH will fund around two-thirds of our work for 2006/07.

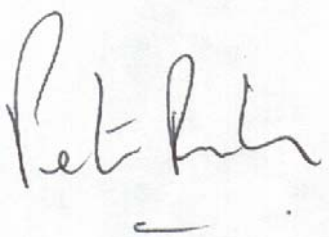
These funds will enable us to aim for financial independence, as planned in 2009/2010, but until then, a greater proportion of our costs will be met by the Departments of Health than had been envisaged in the consultation.

This will mean further incremental rises in 2007/08 and 2008/09 to the levels indicated in our original consultation document although the expected rises will be reviewed in the light of operating experience and other factors. Subject to the Departments of Health agreeing further commitments in the next two to three years, we will be able to move to a level of fees proposed in our consultation but over a two to three year period with the aim of achieving financial independence by 2009/10.

In addition to the main points raised a number of issues were raised by particular individuals or organisations and a response to these is also attached.

I hope this letter answers all the major points raised in the consultation and that you will welcome this change to the original proposals. Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Rubin', with a horizontal line underneath.

Professor Peter Rubin
Chair, PMETB