

2018 Business Plan, Budget and Practice Fees

We are consulting on our 2018 Business Plan, Budget and Practice Fees.

We are proposing a zero increase in practice fees for 2018. This will be the second year running that we have not increased the practice fee. We are proposing that from 2019 onwards, any increases in practice fees are expected to be limited to no more than RPI, in the normal course of events.

Following Ann Wright's resignation as CEO, the Board conducted an assessment of the role's current and future workload. In light of the increasing number of registrants and size of the overall regulatory workload, it took this opportunity to strengthen and increase the resilience of the executive team with the appointment of two part-time senior executives: a CEO and a new role - Head of Registration. The new CEO, [Fran Gillon](#), started on 1 August 2017. The Head of Registration will start later this year and will have specific responsibilities for the maintenance of the Register and the associated compliance, assurance, admission and disciplinary reviews. These new members of staff will work closely with the Board to develop its strategic direction for the coming years. Therefore, in developing the **draft 2018 Business Plan**, the Board has decided to limit the number of new initiatives for 2018.

The draft **2018 Budget** should be read in conjunction with our [Project and General Reserves as at 1 January 2017](#). The reserves are reviewed at the end of each financial year and will next be reviewed after 31 December 2017. You can access the 2017 Practice Fee page which sets out the level of fees via this [link](#) – the fees will be unchanged in 2018.

The budgeted operational costs for 2018 are £713,100 (2017: £654,700) plus the Legal Services Board levy (including the Legal Ombudsman levy) of £58,700 (2017: £57,200). The total budget for 2018 is £771,800 (2017: £711,900). The increase in operational expenditure is due to an increase in staff costs following the restructuring of the executive team. Where we have ring-fenced reserves in place, we have considered the need to maintain the applicable budget lines for 2018 at the same level as 2017 and have, if appropriate, reduced them. However, we consider that it is prudent to maintain the reserves at current levels to ensure that we can respond appropriately to events as they occur during the coming year.

Our practice fee income to 31 July 2017 was £777,362; additional practice fee income arising from new admissions to the Registers in the remainder of 2017 will not be significant. Additional operational expenditure in 2017 and 2018 can be managed within the current budget.

You can also see our [Annual Report for last year](#). This contains details of the number of new registrants in 2016. Our audit is also complete and you can see the signed Financial Statements via this [link](#).

If you have any comments on the 2018 Business Plan, Budget or Practice Fees, please send them to:

ipreg@ipreg.org.uk by 5 pm on Friday 15 September 2017.