



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
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News release

For immediate release

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PRIVY COUNCIL ADVISES ON PROPOSED BYELAW CHANGES

At its October meeting, the Society's Council learned that the Privy Council had raised concerns about aspects of its proposals for changes to the Byelaws.

The Privy Council had advised that a proposal by the Council to allow a reduced level of fee for non-practising pharmacists who had been on the register for 50 years could discriminate against certain groups of pharmacists who were not in a position to have 50 years' unbroken registration.

Recognising that further work would need to be done on the proposal, the Council reaffirmed that it intended to pursue its proposal and resolved to seek acceptable ways forward for the 2007 retention fee cycle.

Mr Hemant Patel, President, said: "We are of course very disappointed that we are not in a position to take this proposal forward for 2006 but the members can rest assured that the Council is determined to find an acceptable way forward for the future. We will be working with the Privy Council to ensure that this amended proposal is brought to the Society's Council for approval as soon as possible."

The Council received a report on comments received through the gazetting of the byelaw amendments on fees. Once the gazetting period was complete, the Council resolved to submit its other proposals on fees, along with comments received, to the Privy Council for approval.

/more follows

The second area to be highlighted by the Privy Council was the proposed amendment to the Society's definition of Practising and Non-practising status for pharmacists. The Privy Council had advised that it was not convinced that there were compelling reasons for dropping the reference to, "the science of medicine" in the relevant definitions, especially in light of the expected consultation on the draft Section 60 Order expected shortly. The Privy Council's advice was that such a significant change needed to be made in a more considered way.

The Council discussed a number of comments and concerns on the proposal that had been expressed, particularly from the science community and industrial pharmacists. It was agreed that further work on the definitions needed to be done in the context of the Section 60 Order consultation.

The President said that he apologised to those who had been caused concern by the proposal. In its proposal, the Council had been trying to be helpful but things had not turned out as the Council had wished.

The Council resolved not to take this proposal forward and to undertake further work on the definitions.

The Council also took note of the view of the Privy Council that the matter of attendance fees for members of the Council is a matter for the Society's own members. The byelaw removes the principle of a ceiling for attendance fees and a future process for review will be considered.

Ends

**For further information please contact Natalie Collyer or Felicity Slayford in the
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