

Audit Committee 27 February 2008

Annual report 2006/7 – Progress report

Executive summary and recommendations

### **Introduction**

As the Committee is aware the signing off of the HPC's annual report and accounts for 2006/7 was delayed for five months. The reason for this was that although the HPC is required 'to act.....as if it were a non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) of the Department of Health'<sup>1</sup> HM Treasury refused to consider HPC's request for approval for a severance payment on the basis that HPC is not an NDPB and therefore did not come within the remit of HM Treasury. Following the intervention of the Department of Health's Regulatory Branch the approval was finally given however the issue of HPC's status as a NDPB has not been resolved.

The Comptroller and Auditor General signed off HPC's Annual Report and Accounts 2006/7 on 6 December 2007.

Following this, and in accordance with Article 44(2) and Article 46(2) of the Health Professions Order 2001, a copy of the annual report and accounts was provided to the Privy Council. The Privy Council is obliged (by Articles 44(3) and 46(7)) of the Order to lay the report and accounts before Parliament.

The Executive has been advised, by the HPC Solicitor and Parliamentary Agent, that the act of providing the Privy Council with a copy of the annual report and accounts discharges HPC's duties under the HPO 2001. However the Stationery Office has raised issues about the style and format of the documents being laid in Parliament and is suggesting the HPC will need to meet the costs of the printing and publishing of the documents being laid. This has not occurred in the past and appears to be related to the lack of clarity as to whether HPC is an NDPB. The Chief Executive has written to the Privy Council to seek clarification.

### **Decision**

The Committee is asked to note the document. No decision is required.

### **Background information**

See paper AUD69/07 – 5 December 2007 Audit Committee meeting

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<sup>1</sup> Letter dated 21 May 2003 from the Privy Council

**Resource implications**

none

**Financial implications**

£1000 (approx) to lay annual report and accounts

**Appendices**

none

**Date of paper**

15 February 2008