

Council

Meeting Date	30 January 2025
Title	The Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2025
Author(s)	Karen Flaherty, Head of Governance
Executive Sponsor	Alastair Bridges, Executive Director of Resources
Executive Summary	
<p>The Council approved a consultation to consult on a 6% increase in registration fees at its meeting in March 2024, targeted at coming into effect in April 2025. The consultation opened on 10 April 2024 and ran for ten weeks, up to 14 June 2024. The consultation document can be found here.</p> <p>The Council reviewed the final analysis of the responses to the consultation and approved the 6% increase in the registration fees as proposed in the consultation and the publication of the formal consultation response and equality impact assessment (EIA) at its meeting in September 2024. The response to the consultation can be found here.</p> <p>The Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2025 (Order) implements the approved changes to the registration fees. The Order also amends the provisions of The Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2023 (SI 2023/995) following feedback from the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI) on the drafting of the provisions of that order relating to virtual meetings and hearings. A draft of the order is included with this paper. This draft version of the Order is currently with the Scottish government for its final legal checks prior to approval by the Department of Health and Social Care, which has completed its legal checking process.</p> <p>The Order is required to approved by the Council as the power to make rules is reserved to the Council under article 3(12) of the Health Professions Order 2001. The Council is also required to approve affixing the HCPC’s seal to the Order, which must also be signed by a Council member and the Chief Executive, in his capacity as Registrar.</p> <p>The Council is asked to approve The Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2025 and consent to the affixing of the HCPC’s seal to the Order and its signature by the Chair and Chief Executive. The Council is also asked to authorise the Chair and Chief Executive to agree any changes to the Order prior to sealing and signing as a result of final checks by the Scottish government and Department of Health and Social Care.</p>	

Action required	The Council is asked to consider and approve the proposal or recommendation.
Previous consideration	<p>The Council approved a consultation to consult on a 6% increase in registration fees at its meeting in March 2024 targeted at coming into effect in April 2025.</p> <p>The Council received an update on the progress of the consultation at its meeting in July 2024 and received the final analysis of the responses to the consultation and approved the increase in registration fees and the consultation response at its meeting in September 2024.</p> <p>The Education and Training Committee considered the consultation at its meeting in June 2024 and submitted a response.</p>
Next steps	<p>Final checks of the Order by the Scottish government and approval of the final Order by the Department of Health and Social Care prior to signature.</p> <p>The Order will be signed and sealed by the Chair and Chief Executive prior to submission to the Privy Council for laying in Parliament. The Order is expected to come into effect on 29 April 2025.</p>
Financial and resource implications	The financial and resource costs of the consultation process were met from within existing budgets. The wider financial impacts and rationale for the increase in registration fees were set out in the consultation and response.
Associated strategic priority/priorities	Build a resilient, healthy, capable and sustainable organisation
Associated strategic risk(s)	5.a The resources we require to achieve our strategy are not in place or are not sustainable
Risk appetite	Financial - measured
Communication and engagement	The increase in registration fees was subject to public consultation. The HCPC also undertook an extensive programme of outreach and awareness raising to promote the consultation which included engagement with government officials and Chief Allied Health Professions Officers/Advisors across the four UK countries, professional bodies, trade unions and registrants.
Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) impact and Welsh language standards	The consultation document was accompanied by an EIA and we asked respondents to consider any additional equalities impacts relating to our proposals. An updated EIA was prepared as part of the response to the consultation and also took account feedback provided by Council at its meeting in July.

	<p>Regarding Welsh language, the original EIA included consideration of the impact on Welsh language and no additional issues were highlighted in the consultation feedback.</p> <p>The proposed fee rise will support the HCPC in meeting our obligations under the Welsh language standards, including our ability to provide information in Welsh and to support the promotion of the Welsh language.</p>
Other impact assessments	Not applicable
Reason for consideration in the private session of the meeting (if applicable)	Not applicable

2025 No. 0000

HEALTH CARE AND ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONS

**The Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous
Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2025**

Made - - - - *******
Laid before Parliament *******
Laid before the Scottish Parliament *******
Coming into force

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall, the [date] day of [month] 2025.

By the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The Health and Care Professions Council has made the Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules 2025, which are set out in the Schedule to this Order, in exercise of powers conferred by articles 7(1) and (2)(c), 26(3), 32(1), (2) and (4), 37(4) and (5) and 41(2) of the Health Professions Order 2001(a).

In accordance with articles 7(1) and (3) and 41(3) of that Order, the Health and Care Professions Council has consulted the Education and Training Committee and representative groups of persons it considers appropriate, including representatives of the groups referred to in articles 7(3) and 41(3) of that Order.

In accordance with articles 41(1) and 42(1) of that Order, the Rules shall not come into force until approved by Order of the Privy Council.

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules Order of Council 2025 and comes into force on [date].

(2) This Order extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Privy Council approval

2. Their Lordships, having taken the Rules contained in the Schedule to this Order into consideration, are pleased to, and do approve them.

(a) S.I. 2002/254, amended by S.I. 2009/1182; there are other amending instruments, but none is relevant.

[Date]

Name
Clerk of the Privy Council

SCHEDULE

Article 2

The Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules 2025

The Health and Care Professions Council makes the following Rules in exercise of the powers conferred by articles 7(1) and (2)(c), 26(3), 32(1), (2) and (4), 37(4) and (5) and 41(2) of the Health Professions Order 2001.

In accordance with articles 7(1) and (3) and 41(3) of that Order, the Health and Care Professions Council has consulted the Education and Training Committee and representatives of groups of persons it considers appropriate, including representatives of the groups referred to in articles 7(3) and 41(3) of that Order.

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules may be cited as the Health and Care Professions Council (Miscellaneous Amendment) Rules 2025 and come into force on [date] 2025.

Amendments to the Health and Care Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules 2003

2.—(1) The Health and Care Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules 2003(a) are amended as follows.

(2) In rule 14 (registration fee)—

- (a) in paragraph (a), for “£116.36” substitute “£123.34”;
- (b) in paragraph (b), for “£232.72” substitute “£246.68”.

(3) In rule 15 (renewal fee), for “£232.72” substitute “£246.68”.

(4) In rule 15A (readmission fee), for “£174.54” substitute “£185.01”.

(5) In rule 16 (restoration fee), for “£174.54” substitute “£185.01”

(6) In rule 17 (scrutiny fees)—

- (a) in paragraph (1), for “£81.45” substitute “£86.34”;
- (b) in paragraph (2), for “£639.98” substitute “£678.38”.

Amendment to the Health Professions Council (Investigating Committee) Procedure Rules 2003

3. In the Health Professions Council (Investigating Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003(b), for 8B substitute—

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- (a) Rules as set out in the Schedule to the Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules Order of Council 2003 (S.I. 2003/1572), the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 2023/995.
 - (b) Rules as set out in the Schedule to the Health Professions Council (Investigating Committee) Procedure Rules Order of Council 2003 (S.I. 2003/1574). A relevant amendment is made to rule 8, by S.I. 2023/995.

“Meetings and hearings

8B.—(1) In the case of a preliminary meeting under these Rules the Committee or Chair may arrange for a preliminary meeting to be conducted using audio video conferencing facilities.

(2) In the case of a hearing under these Rules the Committee may arrange for a hearing to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities.

(3) Where a meeting or hearing uses audio or video conferencing facilities any notice sent under these Rules giving notice of the meeting or hearing must include the details of any audio or video conferencing arrangements required to access that meeting or hearing.”

Amendment to the Health Professions Council (Conduct and Competence Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003

4. In the Health Professions Council (Conduct and Competence Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003(a), for rule 10B substitute—

“Meetings and hearings

10B.—(1) In the case of a preliminary meeting under these Rules the Committee or Chair may arrange for a preliminary meeting to be conducted using audio video conferencing facilities.

(2) In the case of a hearing under these Rules the Committee may arrange for a hearing to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities.

(3) Where a meeting or hearing uses audio or video conferencing facilities any notice sent under these Rules giving notice of the meeting or hearing must include the details of any audio or video conferencing arrangements required to access that meeting or hearing.”

Amendments to the Health Professions Council (Health Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003

5. In the Health Professions Council (Health Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003(b), for rule 10B substitute—

“Meetings and hearings

10B.—(1) In the case of a preliminary meeting under these Rules the Committee or Chair may arrange for a preliminary meeting to be conducted using audio video conferencing facilities.

(2) In the case of a hearing under these Rules the Committee may arrange for a hearing to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities.

(3) Where a meeting or hearing uses audio or video conferencing facilities any notice sent under these Rules giving notice of the meeting or hearing must include the details of any audio or video conferencing arrangements required to access that meeting or hearing.”

(a) Rules as set out in the Schedule to the Health Professions Council (Conduct and Competence Committee) (Procedure) Rules Order of Council 2003 (S.I. 2003/1575). A relevant amendment is made to rule 10, by S.I. 2023/995.
(b) Rules as set out in the Schedule to the Health Professions Council (Health Committee) (Procedure) Rules Order of Council 2003 (S.I. 2003/1576). A relevant amendment is made to rule 10, by S.I. 2023/995.

Amendments to the Health Professions Council (Registration Appeals) Rules 2003

6. In the Health Professions Council (Registration Appeals) Rules 2003(a), for rule 14A substitute—

“Meetings and hearings

14A.—(1) In the case of a preliminary meeting under these Rules the Appeal Panel or Chair may arrange for a preliminary meeting to be conducted using audio video conferencing facilities.

(2) In the case of a hearing under these Rules the Appeal Panel, Chair or the Council, where the Council considers an appeal hearing itself, may arrange for a hearing to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities.

(3) Where a meeting or hearing uses audio or video conferencing facilities any notice sent under these Rules giving notice of the meeting or hearing must include the details of any audio or video conferencing arrangements required to access that meeting or hearing.”

(a) Rules as set out in the Schedule to the Health Professions Council (Registration Appeals) Rules Order of Council 2003 (S.I. 2003/1579). A relevant amendment is made to rule 14, by S.I. 2023/995.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order approves various Rules made by the Health and Care Professions Council (“HCPC”).

The Rules in paragraph 2 of the Schedule amend the Health and Care Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules 2003, scheduled to the Health Professions Council (Registration and Fees) Rules Order of Council 2003. Those Rules amend the fees which the HCPC charges for processing and scrutinising applications for admission to its register, for renewal of registration and for readmission or restoration to the register.

Paragraph 2(2) of the Schedule increases the two-yearly fee for registration in the register maintained under the Health Professions Order 2002 (S.I. 2002/254) to £123.34 (an increase of £6.98) for those qualified for up to two years; and to £246.68 (an increase of £13.96) for everyone else.

Paragraph 2(3) increases the renewal fee to £246.68 (an increase of £13.96).

Paragraph 2(4) and (5) increase fees for readmission and restoration to the register from £174.54 to £185.01 (an increase of £10.47).

Paragraph 2(6) increases the scrutiny fees paid by all new applicants, whose qualifications, and in some cases experience needs to be assessed. The scrutiny fee for applicants who have successfully completed an approved UK programme of education and training is increased to £86.34 (an increase of £4.89). The scrutiny fee for international applicants is increased to £678.38 (an increase of £38.40).

The Rules in paragraphs 3 to 5 of the Schedule make amendments to the procedural rules for the HCPC to allow the committee or chair to arrange for a preliminary meeting to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities, and for the committee to arrange for a hearing under the rules to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities. The rules being amended are the Health and Care Professions Council (Investigating Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003, the Health and Care Professions Council (Conduct and Competence Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003 and the Health and Care Professions Council (Health Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2003. The amendments to all three sets of procedural rules are in the same format and involve the same change.

The Rule in paragraph 6 of the Schedule make amendments to the procedural rules for the HCPC to allow the appeal panel or chair to arrange for a preliminary meeting to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities, and for the appeal panel, chair or the council, where the council considers an appeal hearing itself, to arrange for a hearing under the rules to be conducted using audio or video conferencing facilities. The rules being amended are the Health Professions Council (Registration Appeals) Rules 2003.

A full impact assessment of the effect that the change of fees under this instrument will have on the costs of business, the voluntary sector and the public sector is at:

[insert link]

A physical copy of the impact assessment can also be requested by email or telephone to the HCPC at policy@hcpc-uk.org or [telephone number].