/RLH

14th July 2019

Professional Standards Authority

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road

London

SW1W 9SP

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Increasing HCPC Fees**

I am contacting you on behalf of the GMB National Ambulance Committee to raise our concerns with you about the increasing of HCPC fees.

GMB members were consulted over the proposed increase and our Paramedics responses were collated in to the GMB submission into the consultation. Please see copy attached for your information which provides more detailed reasons for our objection to this increase.

1. We do not support the proposed increase to ambulance workers’ renewal fees. The current increase is 18%, resulting in a 39% increase in fees since 2009.
2. We believe that improvements to certain aspects of the HCPC’s service – particularly the length of time it takes to conduct hearings – would both lead to cost savings and a greater sense of value for money on the part of registered professionals.
3. We recognise that there could be value in more regular reviews of increases, but we would seek to understand how often such increases would be applied and the nature of the associated consultation mechanisms before commenting further.

We are aware that this issue was debated in the House of Commons by MPs on the 14th March 2019 and that the Governments response was that although the HCPC is independent of Government, they would contact PSA regarding disparities between part time and full time fees, as well as to enquire on what the money will be spent on.

The GMB is therefore contacting you to raise our concerns (as listed above and included in our consultation submission) and to also ask you to intervene and stop this increase, until further reassurances have been given as to why the increase is so high and what it will be spent on.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the content of this letter with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Harrison

GMB National Officer

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Steve Rice

Chair – GMB National Ambulance Committee