



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Dental & Eye Care Services
Department of Health & Social Care
4th Floor
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

Tony Stafford
Secretary
Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee
2 Woodbridge Street
London
EC1R 0DG

16 March 2020

Dear Tony,

GOS Fees 2020/21

I am writing to you about the NHS sight test fee, continuing education and training (CET) allowance and the pre-registration trainers grant for 2020/21, following the discussions you have had with NHS England.

Ministers' have considered these fees and have decided that the NHS sight test fee should remain at its current level for 2020/21 and that there should be a 2% increase for both the CET allowance and the pre-registration trainers grant.

We appreciate that you will be disappointed by the decision taken not to increase the level of the NHS sight test fee. This was a difficult decision, which took into account the lack of available evidence about any impact on NHS sight test numbers or optical businesses, from the continued freeze in fees. The optical sector was invited, as you know, to put forward any available evidence of such an impact.

Ministers have asked specifically that the profession consider the impact of the freeze, particularly on smaller non-corporate providers, and to provide evidence for the discussions that will take place with NHS England towards the end of this year, in respect of the fees for 2021/22.

I know the continued fee freeze will be disappointing, I hope you will be pleased, however, that the CET allowance and pre-registration trainers grant is being increased. For the continuing education and training allowance and the grant to supervisors of pre-registration trainees an increase of 2% would mean that the CET allowance would increase to £573 and the supervisors grant to £3,692.

We will share the draft payment directions, covering the CET allowance, with you for comments in due course.

Yours sincerely

Head of Dental, Optical, Voluntary Sector, End of Life Care and Long-term Conditions
Primary Care