



General
Osteopathic
Council

November 2013

Consultation on proposal to reduce registration fees from May 2014

The purpose of this consultation is to invite views on a General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) proposal to reduce registration fees when a registrant registration renews from May 2014. There are two consultation issues:

1. Should identified cost reductions be passed back to registrants via a fee reduction?
2. If so, should the reduction in fees be spread across all registration fee levels?

We welcome responses up to **noon on 13 December 2013**.

Background

The GOsC has reduced its registration fee in each of the last two financial years. The headline registration fee, which once stood at £750, has been reduced by almost 19% to £610. In addition, the GOsC also reduced all other registration fee levels last year. When initially reducing the registration fee the GOsC made it clear that it was the start of a process in which all expenditure and income levels would be scrutinised.

[A budget strategy paper for 2014-2015](#) was agreed by Council on 17 October 2013. It set out the 2014-15 forecast budget envelope, including proposed cost reductions, expenditure levels and the impact on the registration fee.

Given the anticipated surplus of income over expenditure, Council agreed that it would be sensible for the GOsC to further reduce the level of registration fees for registrants renewing their registration from 1 May 2014.

Last year Council was clear that it wanted the fee reduction to benefit all registrants and approved an across-the-board reduction. Council also noted that the differential in the headline fee between an across the 'board reduction' or 'headline fee only reduction' was very small.

It is proposed to adopt the same approach for 2014-2015, with an across-the-board fee reduction for all registrants. The table below shows how such a reduction would be applied. It should be noted that if only the headline fee were to be reduced, the differential would be £5 (£565 v £570).

Registration levels	Current fee levels	Proposed across the board reduction
Year 1 (entry)	£340	£320
Year 2 UK	£455	£430
Year 2 reduced rate	£230	£215
Year 3 UK	£610	£570
Year 3 reduced rate	£340	£320

The small additional fees charged for payment by instalments would remain unchanged.

The proposed reductions are lower than in previous years, reflecting the difficulty in continuing to identify new areas of cost reduction. However, the reduction in fees proposed would mean that over a three year period the headline fee to osteopaths will have been reduced by just under 25%.

The consultation opened on 1 November 2013 and will close on 13 December 2013. This allows for the results of the consultation to be reported back to Council on 29 January 2014. Following this the Privy Council would need to approve new fees rules and it is envisaged that the new rules would be implemented in April/May 2014.

Consultation questions:

1. Do you agree that the GOsC should pass identified cost reductions back to the profession via a fee reduction?
2. Do you agree that the fee reduction should be spread across all registration fee levels?

Responding to the consultation

You can respond to this consultation on the **o** zone at <https://www.osteopathy.org.uk/ozone/get-involved/your-views/Fee-reduction-consultation/> or the public website at <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about/our-work/consultations-events/Fee-reduction-consultation/>,

by emailing us at: finance@osteopathy.org.uk

or by post to:

Fee reduction consultation
General Osteopathic Council
Osteopathy House
176 Tower Bridge Road
London SE1 3LU

We will publish a report about the consultation and the responses we have received. If you would prefer your response not to be made public, please indicate when sending us your views.

The closing date is noon on 13 December 2013.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Hard copies of this consultation document are available on request by contacting the GOsC via email at: finance@osteopathy.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7357 6655 x231.

Questions about you (optional)

We would also like to ask you some questions about you. Completing [the diversity questionnaire](#) is optional, but we would welcome information about our respondents. The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of analysing the consultation responses.