



Special General Meeting

Proposed Practising Certificate Fee for 2019/2020

Proposal

The Council recommends to members that the Practising Certificate fee for 2019/2020 be set at £575; The current fee is set at £565. The proposed fee requires to be approved by members at the SGM on Friday 6 September 2019. Council has already set the statutory retention fee at £105 (2018/2019: £100) and the Practice Management fee at £210 (2018/2019: £205).

Principal information on the proposed fee

- The PC fee was held at £550 from 2011 to 2018, with an inflationary increase of 2.7% in the current year to £565.
- The proposal for 2019/2020 is that the fee increase is again limited to an inflationary amount of 1.7% to £575.
- The proposed fee is based on a budget for 2019/2020 of total income of £11.9m and expenditure of £11.9m, resulting in an overall breakeven position.
- The main areas of expenditure for financial year 2019/2020 are 55% on employment costs, 9% on property costs and 36% on general operating costs.
- The proposed increase in the fee of £10 will be used to maintain the Society's strategic role as regulator and representative body for all Scottish solicitors.
- Specific projects which the Society will pursue during 2019/2020 include:
 - Legal Services Review
 - Streamlining of the complaints system
 - Financial Compliance reforms, and
 - Member engagement