

OFNC

Association of British Dispensing Opticians
Association of Optometrists
British Medical Association
Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians

Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee

2 Woodbridge St, London, EC1R 0DG
Chair: Paul Carroll

Email: secretary@ofnc.co.uk
Secretary: Peter Hampson

Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Public Health, Start for Life and Primary Care)
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

4th March 2024

Dear Minister,

At our recent meeting, we discussed the importance of primary eye care and all it does to prevent sight loss and keep people well, out of hospital and in work. Your statement following that meeting received positive sector comment.

However, in light of the DHSC letter of 1st March 2024 confirming the proposed GOS fee increase, we must now ask for a further urgent meeting with you to hear from you why optometrists are once again being treated less fairly than others.

The proposed GOS fee increase of 1.68% is far lower than is warranted by recent inflationary pressures and represents an increase of just 38p per NHS funded sight test, leaving primary eye care contractors facing a more significant real-terms cut than other NHS services. Our members are acutely aware that despite primary care being told there is no more money, money has been found for other areas and they will not understand why they have been treated differently when they are working so diligently to provide high quality care to millions of NHS patients.

We will be able to work round any diary pressure you may have and hope to meet with you soon as we have now been asked to clear regulations which we think will be detrimental to the delivery of NHS optometric care.

Your sincerely,

Paul Carroll
OFNC Chair