Department of Health

Dental & Eye Care Services
Legislation and Policy Unit
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Ann Blackmore
Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee
2 Woodbridge Street
London
EC1R 0DG

11 March 2016

Dear Ann,

**GOS Fees 2016/17**

I am writing to you about the NHS sight test and continuing education and training fees and the pre-registration trainers grant for 2016/17, following the discussions you have had with NHS England.

Ministers' have now considered these fees. They have agreed that the NHS sight test fee should remain at its' current level in 2016/17 and that there should be a 1% increase for each of the associated fees.

I appreciate that you will be disappointed by the decision that the sight test fee should remain at its' current level. This has been taken in the context of the need to control public expenditure and the continued increase in supply of optometrists which suggests that there are not currently difficulties with recruitment.

For the continuing education and training payment and the grant to supervisors of pre-registration trainees an increase of 1% would mean that the CET payment would increase to £540 and the supervisors grant £3,479.

The continuing education payment will be for CET undertaken in 2015 and claimable in a window from 1 July to 31 October.

Draft payment directions, covering the CET payment, will be sent to you for consultation in due course.

Yours sincerely



Peter Howitt
Deputy Director
Legislation and Policy Unit
NHS Group