

GUILD OF HEALTHCARE PHARMACISTS-UNITE-AMICUS
Press Release

14th August 2007

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society: Consultation on Proposed 50% Increase in
Members' Retention Fees: Comments from Guild of Healthcare
Pharmacists**

The Guild is appalled by the proposed 50% increase in fees by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for 2008. Members have expressed their dismay at the additional cost they will have to meet. Many members have signed the on-line petition to the Society against the fee increase.

The Guild expects any organisation facing financial difficulties, whether public or private, to review and make significant financial and organisational changes to make the organisation viable. We are aware of the additional workload created by the Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technicians Order and this would allow staff to be deployed to best effect without creating staff redundancies. The review should include the cost of running the Council itself. As we are all aware many NHS organisations had to go through this exercise in 2006/7. There is little evidence so far of such a review within the Society, and it is all the more pertinent in view of the deficit budget which was set last year.

The Guild will be considering the consultation proposals in detail and will submit a full and considered response. Members can contribute to this response through the members' forum on the Guild web site www.ghp.org.uk.

Notes for Editors

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the regulatory body for pharmacists, is proposing to raise the annual retention fee for pharmacists from the current £283 per annum to £425 per annum from January 2008.

The Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists represents, UK wide, 4,000 pharmacists including the majority of hospital pharmacists, pharmacists employed by Primary Care Trusts and pharmacists employed by other public bodies such as the Healthcare Commission, and is part of the health sector of the union Unite, Amicus section. Unite (Amicus section) is the third largest union in the NHS. It has seven professional sections: the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association, the Mental Health Nurses Association, the Guild of Healthcare Pharmacists, the Society of Sexual Health Advisers, the Medical Practitioners' Union, College of Healthcare Chaplains, and the Hospital Physicists Association.

Unite was formed by an amalgamation of Amicus and the Transport and General Workers' Union in May 2007.

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