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Dear LPC Chief Officer

PSNC levy 2021/22

We are writing to you about the PSNC levy decision for the coming financial year 2021/22. PSNC's meeting schedule means that the Committee finalised its planning for the financial year in February, and we are writing to you as soon as possible following those discussions.

The PSNC Committee met on 4th February and once again agreed not to increase the levy from 1st April 2021. This will now be the sixth successive year in which a flat levy for LPCs has been maintained to fund PSNC's work. This is possible because although PSNC anticipates having to undertake much critical work in the next financial year, we have been able to make savings on meetings etc. through the COVID-19 pandemic and we expect these to continue beyond March 2021. You can read our latest accounts in the 2019/20 annual report which we published this week: <https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/psnc-publishes-2019-20-annual-report/>

Although the PSNC levy will remain flat, as anticipated when the initial funding of the Review Steering Group (RSG) by PSNC was announced, LPCs should budget some funds in H2 2021/22 to further resource the next stages of the work to deliver a future vision of effective contractor support and representation. The ongoing pandemic, which delayed publication of the Wright Review itself, has had a knock-on for subsequent actions like the formation of the RSG. However, following our collective discussions last summer and autumn, the RSG has now been established and held initial meetings: its role is to commission and oversee work exploring the findings of the independent review in more detail and to come up with workable proposals to present to contractors. This work is vital to help the sector to continue moving forwards, together, in what will continue to be a demanding and challenging environment.

The task ahead of the RSG is significant and as agreed in the Terms of Reference the group will need to commission experts to take forward the detailed work needed as well as engaging widely with contractors. We understand that the RSG is in the process of appointing programme management expertise and that an early task will be to draw up a timeline and workplan. This programme plan will help to better inform the RSG about its funding needs, but at this stage the RSG anticipates that it will need further funding to sustain its work over the course of 2021/22.

The Group's current preliminary plan is to ask the network of LPCs to match fund the £90,000 originally allocated to the RSG by PSNC in 2020/21. The RSG will be engaging with LPCs soon – giving a presentation at the March meeting being hosted by PSNC – and will be in touch separately about funding once further planning

work has been done. We are grateful for your ongoing engagement and support for this important work. Further information about the RSG can be found here: <https://pharmacy-review.org>

At a national level, PSNC has another intensive year ahead as we continue to make the case for the sector and push officials towards more reasonable funding and service arrangements. In addition to this, and central to our work, we will continue to ensure that we provide value in helping and supporting contractors and LPCs, going into year 3 of the Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework multi-year funding agreement.

Locally, you also continue to have an ever-important role supporting contractors. The integration of community pharmacy into Integrated Care Systems (ICS) and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) remains a critical role. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the considerable efforts that you have put into ensuring support for the local elements of the Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) involving PCNs. 2021/22 will see the mobilisation of new services such as the Discharge Medication Service (DMS) and the GP referral pathway into the Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) accelerated. Your role, working with the regional and local NHS in facilitating constructive local relationships will be critical to their success.

This year we have scheduled four PSNC/LPC conferences/meetings, the first one on Wednesday 17th March, followed by June, September and November, and we look forward to seeing you there. These will be great opportunities to build on the progress of working much more closely together during the pandemic, connecting with you on a more regular basis. We will be able to hear about your local progress and challenges, as well as a focus our joint collective efforts on emerging work on behalf of all contractors.

An invoice for your levy for the first half of 2021/22 is enclosed. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the levy payments to reach us by 1st April 2021 and 1st October 2021 respectively, although we would warmly welcome earlier payment.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Dukes
Chief Executive



Mark Burdon
Chair of the Resource Development and Finance Subcommittee