

Our Ref: (40) in HWF CR 1/3/3921/89 Pt.10

Tel.: 2973 8101

Fax: 2840 0467

12 May 2006

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
The Chairman
Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Dear Dr Kwok,

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services on 10 April 2006, you requested the Administration to provide the following supplementary information -

- (a) an explanation on why some fees were last revised as far back as in 1989; and
- (b) the cost recovery of fees relating to the Licensing Examination for medical practitioners in other jurisdictions.

This letter provides information on the above issues.

On (a) above, two fee items have not been revised since 1989, namely, the “registration of premises of an authorized seller of poisons” and “free sale certificate of pharmaceutical product” under the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations. According to general guidelines on review of government fees and charges, full costing exercise is to be conducted on a regular basis at every four-year interval. Since the last fee revision in 1989, the Department of Health conducted a costing review on the items under the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations in 1993-94 and as a result, a number of fees were revised in 1994. However, for the two concerned items, the costing review showed that there was then no need to revise the fees to achieve full cost recovery.

The next costing exercise should have been conducted in 1998 but the fee revision had been held in abeyance as the Government has since then frozen most of the fees and charges as an exceptional measure to alleviate the financial burden on the public in times of economic difficulty. In accordance with the Financial Secretary's instruction to resume the revision of government fees and charges, the Department of Health conducted a costing review in 2005-06 which led to the submission of the current fee proposals to the Panel.

On (b) above, the fees of licensing examination for medical practitioners in other jurisdictions are attached at **Annex** for Members' reference. However, we are unable to obtain information on the cost recovery rate for these examinations and whether government subsidy is provided.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Susie HO)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

Licensing Examination for Medical Practitioners in Other Jurisdictions

	Mainland	United Kingdom	Australia	Canada
Written Examination	280 (RMB) for both written and practical examinations (HK\$274)	145 (pounds) (HK\$2,101)	\$1,830 (AUS) (HK\$11,072)	\$680 (CAN) (HK\$4,820)
Clinical Examination	N/A	430 (pounds) (HK\$6,231)	\$2,510 (AUS) (HK\$15,186)	\$1,450 (CAN) (HK\$10,277)
Total	HK\$274	HK\$8,332	HK\$26,258	HK\$15,097

* Exchange rate as at 11 May 2006