



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS
of Great Britain & Ireland

Director of Certification
PMETB
Hercules House
Hercules Road
London
SE1 7DU

Wednesday 28th May 2008

Dear Ms Hawksworth,

I write as an elected Committee member of the Group of Anaesthetists In Training (GAT). GAT is the sole professional representative body for trainee anaesthetists in the UK and is an important constituent part of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland. With more than 3500 members, GAT represents >95% of trainee anaesthetists, who together form the single biggest group of hospital specialty trainees within the NHS.

All the members of the GAT Committee are most concerned at PMETB's unadvertised increase in the fee for a Certificate of Completion of Training from 1st April this year. An increase from £750 to £780 represents a 4% increment, and email communications from your department state that this is in line with inflation. As the Consumer Price Index increased from 2.5% to 3% over the same period, you are evidently using a different index of inflation to the ones usually used by Government bodies. The 4% increase is also particularly insensitive to trainees who in April received a below-inflation pay rise of 2.2%. As an organisation, we would be most grateful to you for an explanation so that we can inform our membership. Perhaps you can also provide for us a breakdown of the changes in PMETB's expenses that underpinned the need for this over-inflation fee increase. Further, can you confirm for us that those trainees whose CCT dates fell before April 2008 and who began the process of applying for their Certificate will be charged the pre-April rate?

While recognising that a £30 increase does not constitute a large amount in absolute terms, we hope that you will agree with us that when any increases in our pay are closely scrutinised, widely publicised and the result of negotiation and compromise between objective advisors, the Government and the profession, it appears very much out of kilter that PMETB can appear to increase its charges without any of the discussion or restraint

manifest in the processes that determine how we are paid.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Broomhead
GAT Committee