

Current fee regime for applications

The Act gives the Board powers to charge for aspects of its work. In 2011, ARB introduced a new fee structure for those joining and re-joining the Register. The basis of the change was a 'user pays' approach and the rationale for this was that those on the Register should not be carrying the costs associated with individuals seeking to join it. The new approach included:

- the introduction of an application fee;
- a reduction in the associated prescribed fee (the fee charged for anyone having been removed for non-payment wishing to re-join the register); and
- a pro-rata retention fee, meaning that applicants who join the Register at different stages of the year do not pay for the full quarters they have not been registered for.

Processing fees are non-refundable, even where a refund may be given to an applicant for a withdrawn or rejected application.

When the current fee structure was approved, the Board agreed that the structure and the amounts payable would be reviewed annually to ensure proportionate fees continue to be charged.

As different types of application require varying degrees of administration, whilst the retention fee is the same for all applicants, the associated fees charged will vary. The broad principles are detailed below:

UK Qualified

- first time applicants who qualify in the UK and/or via the prescribed examination route and who submit their application within two years of passing their Part 3, will pay an application fee of £35 as well as the retention fee;
- first time applications who qualify in the UK and/or via the prescribed examination route and submit their application more than two years after passing their Part 3, will be subject to assessment by the competency standards group (CSG) and will need to pay an application fee of £110 as well as the retention fee;

EU rights

- first time applicants who apply for registration in line with the Professional Qualifications Directive will pay an application fee of £35 as well as the retention fee;
- applicants who apply to join the Register and who apply through the General System will be subject to an exercise whereby their experience and qualification is mapped against Part 3 and are subject to fee of £1720 which includes the retention fee.

Rejoining the Register

- applicants rejoining the Register who were removed from the Register for either not providing an up to date address or not paying the retention fee will be subject to an additional £10 prescribed fee, on top of the £35 application fee and retention fee;
- applicants rejoining the Register who came off of the Register by resigning will not need pay the £10 prescribed fee, but will be subject to the £35 application as well as the retention fee; and
- applicants returning to the Register following erasure for disciplinary reasons will not have been able to reapply for at least two years, meaning that they are charged £110 for the CSG assessment of their competence, as well as the retention fee. The Board makes the final decision as to the suitability for return to the Register following the CSG recommendation on

competence, but this activity is not chargeable.