

OFNC

Association of British Dispensing Opticians
Association of Optometrists
British Medical Association
Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians

Optometric Fees Negotiating Committee

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Chairman: Mike George Secretary: Ann Blackmore

Derek Busby
Dental and Eye Care Services
Department of Health
Richmond House
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8 January 2016

Dear Derek

The National Health Service (Optical Charge and Payments)(Amendment) Regulations 2016

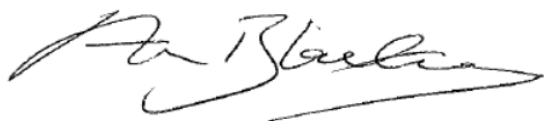
Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2015 seeking the views of the OFNC on a proposed amendment to the National Health Service (Optical Charge and Payments) Regulations 2013.

I can confirm that we welcome the proposed amendment and have no comments on the draft regulations.

Once the Regulations have been made we will amend "Making Accurate Claims" to reflect the change and will advise relevant OC and BMA members. It would be good to align this with any update DH or NHS England plans to issue please, so I hope we will be able to exchange drafts in advance as usual.

As you will know from past OFNC meetings, we believe the voucher system to be effective and it has worked well for the past 30 years. We would therefore also be keen to work with the Department and other stakeholders to further tidy up the voucher system to ensure it continues to operate fairly in patients' interests. Perhaps we could progress this over summer 2016?

Yours sincerely



Ann Blackmore
Secretary, OFNC