



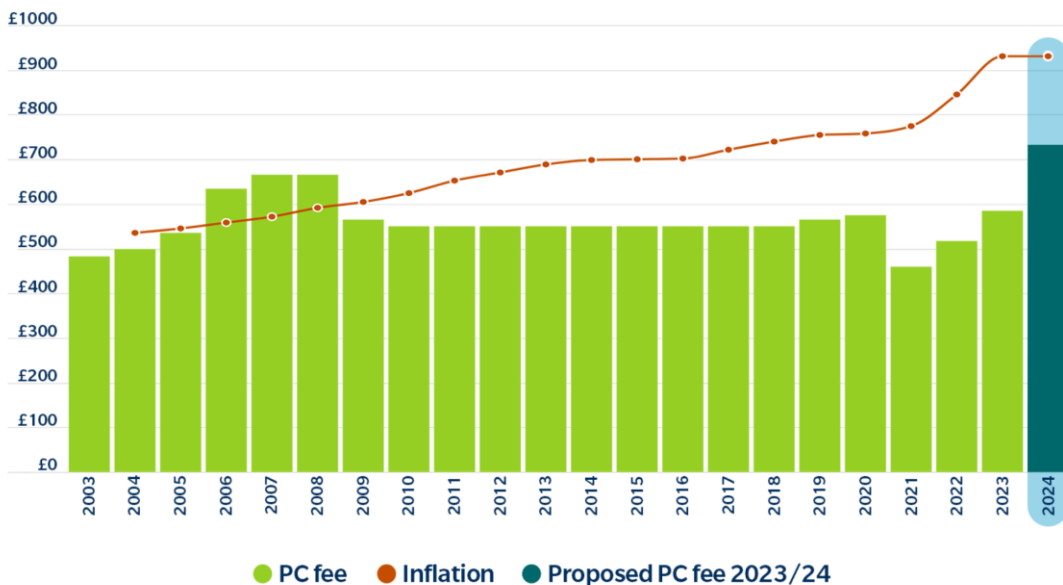
Practising Certificate Fee 2023/24

The Law Society's Council has proposed a rise to the Practising Certificate fee for 2023/24 following more than a decade of below inflationary rises. You can read more below about why this increase has been proposed and how we will use it.

We have a long and proud track record of keeping costs down

For more than a decade, the Law Society has either frozen the Practising Certificate fee or had below inflation increases. At the height of the economic impact of Covid, we slashed the practising certificate fee to ensure we supported our members financially when they needed it most. We have shown how much we understand the importance of keeping the cost of practice as low as possible. However, it is unsustainable for us to maintain this approach indefinitely.

Practising Certificate fees since 2003 (graph shows CPI inflation figures)



Like all organisations and all parts of society, we are facing historically high levels of inflation

Whether it is office costs, rising energy and utility bills or salary pressures, we need to increase the Practising Certificate fee to ensure we can keep up our current work across regulation and member services. Doing anything else would require us to reduce our work at a time when our members are encouraging us to do more. We also have to take into the account that inflation is expected to remain high over the coming year.

This is a critical time for the Law Society and the legal profession

With planned reforms to legal aid, new legislation to radically change our criminal justice system, and plans for unprecedented levels of political control on the legal profession, we need the resources needed to stand up and speak out on behalf of our members. Solicitors also tell us that regulation must remain a key priority so at such a critical time, maintaining standards and dealing with complaints effectively must be properly resourced.

The proposed Practising Certificate fee 2023/24 and how'll we use it

We are proposing a core Practising Certificate fee increase of £146.25 to maintain and improve all our work

Even with this increase, the Practising Certificate fee will be lower in real terms than 15 years ago. With the new Practising Certificate fee in place, we will continue to provide our huge range of public interest and member focused activity; setting and enforcing standards for the profession, providing valued professional practice advice, negotiating the Master Policy, offering training and professional development, delivering a range of key equality and diversity work, wellbeing advice and support, schools outreach, trainee support and so much more.

We'll make sure to use this money to keep the Society on a sound long term financial footing

During Covid, we used our resources to provide the necessary financial support for the profession. Even this year, our post-Covid budget is based on using reserves. Now is the time to rebuild our reserves, not just to deal with the unexpected events of the future but to build funds for long term investment needed to support our members.

We'll invest properly to modernise the Society and be more efficient

While minimising fees over recent years was the right approach, it prevented the Law Society from investing in the systems needed to better serve our members and the public. It is why we will use this extra resource to modernise our systems and processes, especially in IT and cyber security, to deliver service improvements and increased efficiency.