

Statement of Financial Entitlements 2005 onwards – Summary of changes

The previous Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE) was published as a one year document and as such ceased to have legal effect on 31st March 2005. Consequently, the Department of Health must, for the sake of continuity and to ensure the legal underpinning of the associated payments, issue a revised SFE on 1st April 2005.

The Department's aim in producing the new SFE was not to re-visit the detail of each payment provided for in the current SFE but to:-

- i. change the format of the SFE so that it's application was not limited to a particular financial year;
- ii. to introduce new provisions where this was necessary;
- iii. to update, where appropriate, the monetary and related values;
- iv. to improve clarity;
- v. to consolidate changes made to the original SFE during 2004/05.

Section 2 – Global Sum Payments

There have been minor changes to reflect references to QoF payments. The amount of the annual global sum payments has also been revised (paragraph 2.3). An increase has been made to the points deduction under QoF (paragraph 2.6).

Section 3 – MPIG

New text has been included relating to the uprating of the correction factor between financial years (paragraphs 3.10 – 3.14). Paragraph 3.18 has been inserted to clarify the MPIG arrangements in the event of a company dissolution.

Section 4 – QoF (General)

Minor updating of references has taken place. The QoF Access Payments section has been updated.

Section 5 – Aspiration Payments

This has been substantially re-written to reflect that aspiration payments can now be calculated by reference to the previous year's achievements.

Section 6 – Achievement Payments

A new section has been inserted which covers recovery where aspiration payments have been too high (paragraphs 6.10 – 6.11). Paragraph 6.12 updates the accounting arrangements.

Section 8 – Childhood Immunisation Scheme

The section has been updated to take account of the five-in-one vaccine for diphtheria, Tetanus, poliomyelitis, pertussis and HiB.

Section 9 – Payments for locums covering maternity, paternity and adoption leave

The fees in this section have been uplifted.

Section 10 – Payments for locums covering sickness leave

The fees in this section have been uplifted. Paragraph 10.7 has been inserted which sets out the maximum periods for which these payments can be made.

Section 11 – Payments for locums covering vacancies resulting from suspensions

Minor changes have been made to ensure consistency with the Secretary of State Determination, Payments to Medical Practitioners Suspended from the Medical Performers List.

Section 13 – Seniority payments

The changes introduced via the Primary Medical Services (Payment Arrangements) Amendment Directions 2004 have been consolidated. The seniority scale has also been updated (paragraph 13.12).

Section 15 – Returners' Scheme

Additional text has been inserted relating to employers National Insurance contributions (paragraph 15.3)

Section 16 – Flexible Careers Scheme

Additional text has been inserted relating to employers National Insurance contributions (paragraphs 16.7 – 16.18)

Section 17 – Dispensing

Updates have been made to paragraph 17.6 in relation to centrally supplied vaccines.

Section 20 – Administrative Provisions

A new paragraph 20.2 has been inserted which relates to withheld of recovered monies. New text has been added to paragraph 20.14 relating to sole practitioners attending accredited postgraduate educational courses.

Section 21 – Superannuation contributions

This whole section has been updated to reflect the NHS Pension Scheme Amendment Regulations 2005. As a result backdated changes to the SFE 2004/05 will be required (as covered by the General Medical Services) Statement of Financial Entitlements) Amendment Directions 2005.

Annex A – Definitions

Minor changes consequent upon revised text elsewhere within the SFE have been made.

Annex C – Temporary Patients Adjustment

Table C3 has been updated.

Annex D – QoF

There has been a change relating to lithium in the Mental Health section.

Annex E – Calculation of Additional Services Points

Further clarification has been provided at paragraph E4.

Annex F – Adjusted Practice Disease Factor Calculations

The text has been updated to reflect changes in sections 4- 6.

Annex G – Dispensing Payments

The Dispensing Fees have been uplifted.

What has been removed

Former Section 4 – Quality Preparation Payments
Former Section 7 – Quality Information Preparation Scheme
Former Section 14 – Golden Hellos
Former Annex D – MPIG Guidance