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### **RCN response to MHRA Consultation - Regulatory fees for e-cigarettes**

The consultation provides an opportunity to respond to the proposal from the MHRA for new fees for producers and importers of e-cigarettes in order for MHRA to cover the costs of processing the notifications and carrying out post-marketing vigilance work. The proposal is for the fees to be set at the minimum possible to ensure the costs incurred by MHRA are recovered. The implementation date for these changes is 20 May 2016.

With a membership of around 425,000 registered nurses, midwives, health visitors, nursing students, health care assistants and nurse cadets, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the voice of nursing across the UK and the largest professional union of nursing staff in the world. RCN members work in a variety of hospital and community settings in both the NHS and the independent sector. The RCN promotes patient and nursing interests on a wide range of issues by working closely with the Government, the UK parliaments and other national and European political institutions, trade unions, professional bodies and voluntary organisations.

RCN members are employed in a wide array of public health roles and as such are in an ideal position to support people with smoking cessation. E-Cigarettes are increasingly part of the support offered to those wishing to quit smoking. However the majority of the questions are specifically aimed at businesses asking the impact of the fee to them and therefore not appropriate for comment by the RCN.

### **Do you agree or disagree with the levels of the proposed fees in Annex A?**

We would agree the fees appear to be fair and proportionate. We would support that the MHRA do need to be able to recoup expenses. We acknowledge that many companies will need to put in multiple applications due to a wide range of products and in a vast range of flavours. However, we feel that having regulation will help to improve knowledge of

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ingredients and as the evidence base available improves it will help us to implement harm reduction strategies. For example, eliminating use of known carcinogenic agents.

**Would you prefer a fixed fee covering a number of modifications to be added to the Periodic Fee?**

No we would not support this. We would support the proposed charging and fee system which appears to be fair.

The remaining questions are asking the impact on businesses and as such the RCN are unable to comment on these.

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