

**Memorandum for Executive Council**

**SUBJECT**

**Fees and Charges 2019**

Memorandum by the Financial Secretary

- ADVICE SOUGHT**
1. **Executive Council is asked to consider and advise whether the following fees and charges should be increased and the Regulations should be made and published:**
    - a. **Companies (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (Annex A);**
    - b. **Charities (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (Annex B);**
    - c. **Gaming Machines (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (Annex C);**
    - d. **Liquor (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (Annex D); and**
    - e. **Trade Marks (Registration) (Amendment) Rules, 2019 (Annex E).**

- BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**
2. As part of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) process Directorates are asked to review and consider increases in fees and charges for the forthcoming year.
  3. Directorates were requested to carry out a comprehensive review of all fees and charges that fall within their area of responsibility. Fees and charges should be in line with the charging policy guidance and take account of other factors such as impact on service take up and the social impacts of introducing new fees or increasing existing ones. As a minimum Directorates were asked to consider an increase in line with inflation unless an evidence based justification was presented for fees to changes more or less than inflation.
  4. This exercise has been undertaken and in certain areas an increase in fees has been considered but deemed not appropriate at this time, and in some areas as detailed below, have been recommended to change. The following increases fees and charges have been identified:
    - a. Fees under the Companies Ordinance
    - b. Fees under the Charities Ordinance
    - c. Gaming Machine Fees
    - d. Fees under the Liquor Ordinance
    - e. Trade mark registration fees

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A summary of the changes is found in Annex F.

5. Gaming Machine Fees were last increased in 2013. Whilst recommendations have been made to Social and Community Development Committee over the past 3 years to increase those fees, no increases have gone ahead, in the main due to concerns that proprietors would withdraw these machines from use because of an increase.
6. Proposed increases for Gaming Machines fees are the same as those suggested as part of the last fees and charges review.
7. Proposed increases in liquor licence fees, companies fees, charities fees and trademarks fees are based on a 4.3% inflation rate.
8. The proposed increases in fees are based on inflation. It is anticipated that approval of these proposed increases will have positive financial implications for SHG in that additional revenue will be achieved, although these are expected to be less £1,000.
9. There are no additional costs envisaged for the collection of these revised fees.

**FINANCIAL  
IMPLICATIONS**

**ECONOMIC  
IMPLICATIONS**

10. This modest increase in revenue will not have any significant economic implications. It is not anticipated that these increases to business related fees will significantly disadvantage St Helena or deter investment.

**CONSISTENCY  
WITH  
INVESTMENT  
POLICY  
PRINCIPLES  
PUBLIC / SOCIAL  
IMPACT**

11. N/A
12. There will be no direct public or social impact as a result of this decision.

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT**

13. There are no direct environmental impacts identified.

**PREVIOUS  
CONSULTATION /  
COMMITTEE  
INPUT**

14. The proposed amendments to the Charities (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, Gaming Machines (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, Liquor (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 were discussed and endorsed by the Social & Community Development Committee meeting held on 9 January 2019.

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15. The proposed amendments to the Companies (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 and Trade Marks (Registration) (Amendment) Rules, 2019 was discussed and endorsed by the Economic Development Committee at its meeting held on 24 January 2019.

**PUBLIC  
REACTION**

16. Unlikely to be any adverse reaction from the public.

**PUBLICITY**

17. It is proposed that mention should be made in the Executive Council report and associated radio broadcast.

**SUPPORT TO  
STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVES  
LINK TO  
SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
PLAN GOALS**

18. This paper supports Strategic Goal 6: Effective, Efficient and Accountable Public Sector and Strategic Objective 6.2 Ensure sustainable public finances by continuing to collect revenues.

19. N/A

**OPEN /CLOSED  
AGENDA ITEM**  
Corporate Finance  
Corporate Services

20. It is recommended that this is held in open session.

*DLR*

*20<sup>th</sup> March 2019*