

## Open Agenda

Copy No:

No: 50/2020

### Memorandum for Executive Council

**SUBJECT**

#### Fees and Charges Revision 2020

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 with effect from 1 July 2020:**
    - a. **Companies (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (Annex A);**
    - b. **Charities (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (Annex B);**
    - c. **Gaming Machines (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (Annex C);**
    - d. **Liquor (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (Annex D);**  
**and**
    - e. **Trade Marks (Registration) (Amendment) Rules, 2020 (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 change 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 in 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

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e. Trade mark registration fees

5. A summary of the changes is found in Annex F.
6. The proposed increases are based on inflation of 2.9%.
7. 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 than £1,000.
8. There are no additional costs envisaged for the collection of these revised fees.
9. 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. These changes in fees do not affect the Company Registry Policy consultation which is in progress until July 14<sup>th</sup> 2020.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

### CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

### PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

### PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT

10. N/a
11. There will be no direct public or social impact as a result of this decision.
12. There are no direct environmental impacts identified.
13. The proposed amendments to the Charities (Amendment) Regulations, 2020, Gaming Machines (Amendment) Regulations, 2020, Liquor (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 were discussed and endorsed by the Social & Community Development Committee meeting held on 12 February 2020. At the time of consideration by SCDC the MTEF Guidelines rate of inflation of 4.3% was used, however since then the SHG Statistics Office published more up-to-date inflation rate of 2.9%. The proposed rates that went to the 12 February 2020 SCDC meeting have been revised to coincide with the actual 2.9% inflation rate.
14. The proposed amendments to the Companies (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 and Trade Marks (Registration) (Amendment) Rules, 2020 were discussed and

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endorsed by the Economic Development Committee at its meeting held on 27 February 2020. These rates were based on the 2.9% revised inflation rate.

### **PUBLIC REACTION**

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

### **PUBLICITY**

16. The decision will be covered in the radio briefing following the meeting and the Regulations will be published if approved.

17. The Company Registry fees will be updated on the appropriate Company Registry Website; [www.cr.sh](http://www.cr.sh)

### **SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

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.

### **LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS**

19. Some of the Company Registration Fees help to support the goal of Increasing Exports.

### **OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM**

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

DLR

Corporate Support  
Corporate Services

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

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