

To: All interested organisations

28 November 2014

Our reference: MDL 2

## **Consultation on the proposal to introduce a fee for the Certificates of Free Sale (CFS).**

Dear CFS users,

### **Interim Consultation response.**

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our recent consultation about the CFS move to MHRA. Many of you have provided in-depth responses to our questions and we will need a little time to digest all of the replies in order to ensure that we collate all of your important reservations and questions.

For clarification we intend to 'lift and shift' the present CFS system into the MHRA portfolio as it operates now. We will change the minimum of IT infrastructure in order to ensure the system works within the MHRA framework. I have been assured by our IT consultants that users will see very little change. All of the data that you now have will remain within the system and be accessible to you.

We do not intend to introduce electronic certificates immediately and only then when we have further discussed it with users. We acknowledge that hard copy certification is essential to many end users. To this end we also propose to introduce DH stamped high quality paper with an embossed stamp and DH watermark. This paper is very similar to the medicines certification paper.

We do not anticipate any changes to the timescale that has been attained by DH and we will have dedicated staff to manage the CFS system.

We recognise that the introduction of a fee is not wholly appreciated but in order to take on the operation of the CFS then we, as a government agency, have to be able to self-fund schemes. We anticipate that this fee will cover the transfer and management of this new project and will not drain funding from the essential work of the medical Devices division. The fees collection procedure will not hold up the CFS administration process and it is probably intended to issue invoices for certificates, which I know a number of you have requested.

We are also aware that there are issues with the Authorised Representatives access and we will look at this problem carefully and will respond later.

Many of you have shown an interest in joining a user group and this will enable us look at a way forward to ensure that the system works for users. MHRA wants to improve the system and intend to add value to your applications by being able to use other systems within MHRA.

We are on target to transfer the scheme from DH and have the system running without a noticeable break by end of March 2015

Finally if you have any specific questions then please feel free to contact me directly and I will endeavour to supply you with the answer.

Best wishes.

**Mike Peel**

Communication, Education and Business Continuity Manager  
Regulatory Affairs Compliance and Enforcement  
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)