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**HCPC fee rethink shows effectiveness of campaign**

Review must back more modest increase

Commenting on the announcement from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) that it is to review the level of its next fee increase, **UNISON head of health Sara Gorton** said today (Tuesday):

“Health staff will be pleased the HCPC has been listening and has sensibly decided to scale back the huge increase it had originally proposed.

“The 18% fee hike announced back in February would have taken a large chunk out of the wages of many people in the health professions. They could have ill-afforded the increase, but if they’re not on the HCPC register they can’t do their jobs.

“Thankfully given the strength of opposition – much of it co-ordinated by UNISON – the HCPC has had a major re-think. Staff will be hoping that if the fees do have to rise, that the next increase is a more moderate one.”

**Notes to editors**:
– A UNISON survey found 99% of health staff opposed the fee hike of 18%, which was proposed back in February.
– UNISON wrote to all MPs with a full briefing on its concerns and, as a result, 47 cross-party MPs and peers signed a letter sent by UNISON to the HCPC criticising the increase.
– UNISON also helped submit an early day motion calling on the HCPC to reconsider.
– The HCPC regulates 15 health and care professions across the UK including occupational therapists, dieticians, paramedics, radiographers and physiotherapists. It also regulates social workers in England.
– UNISON is the UK’s largest union, with more than 1.3 million members providing public services – in education, local government, the NHS, police service and energy. They are employed in both the public and private sectors.

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