

# Fee Proposal Guide:

## Information for June AGM Voting



Grab a cuppa, this helpful guide is a ten-minute read.

# What members are being asked to consider and vote on

After careful review and deliberation, your elected Council is bringing forward a proposal to increase fees for the 2026/27 membership year, commencing 1 October 2026.

Members are being asked to consider and vote on this fee increase proposal at the BAOT AGM.

The AGM will take place online from 12.30pm, Thursday 25 June 2026.

The proposed changes across membership categories are:

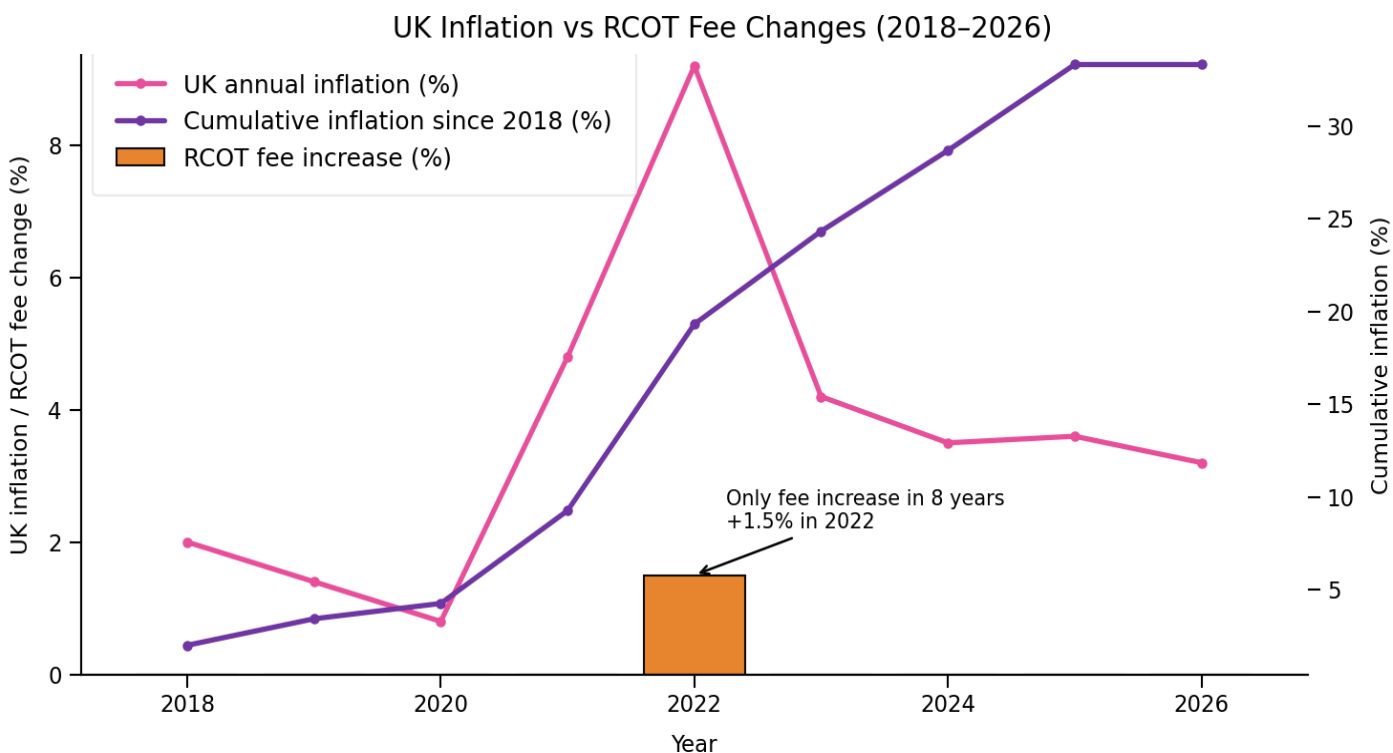
- Professional members: an increase of **99p** per month.
- Newly Registered, Self-Employed and Overseas members: an increase of **74p** per month.
- Associate members: an increase of **58p** per month.
- Student and Apprentice members: an increase of **21p** per month.
- Career Break and Retired members: no change.

This guide contains all you need to know about why this proposal is coming forward, what your membership fees make possible, what's at risk if we don't act now and details on how you can ask questions and vote.



# Why this proposal is coming forward now

- UK inflation has risen by 32% since 2018, significantly increasing the costs of delivering core member services.
- We have increased fees only once across this eight-year period, by 1.5% in 2022 – a situation highly uncommon across our sector.
- While we have worked hard to protect members from rising costs, continuing to absorb them is no longer **financially sustainable**.



## Did you know?

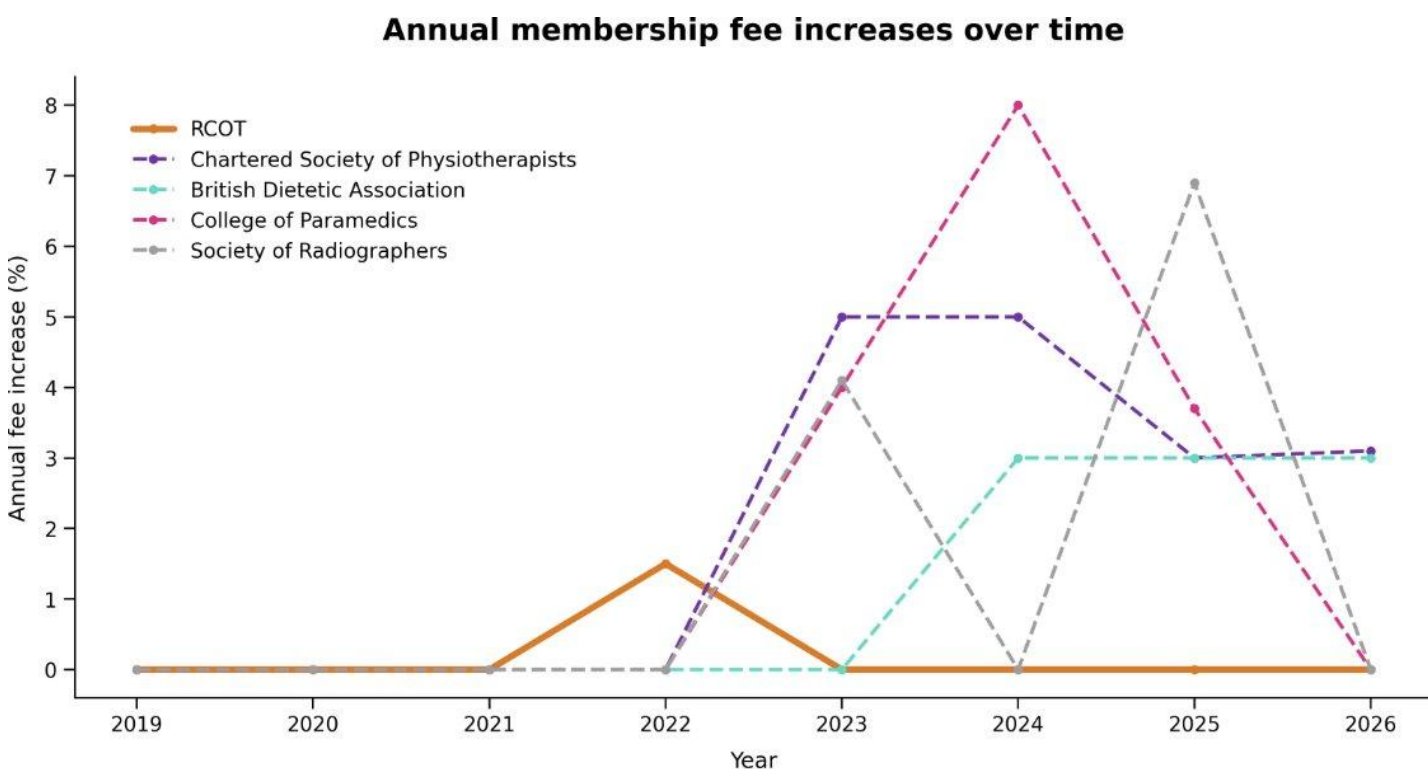
You can claim tax relief on up to 75% of your membership fee through HMRC.

A claim can be made [on the UK Government website](#) for the current tax year and the previous four years.

Note: we are listed on the HMRC website under 'College of Occupational Therapists' not 'Royal'.

# How we compare to other professional member bodies

- The graph below compares our membership fee increases with similar AHP professional bodies.
- We are an outlier in how infrequently fees have increased.
- For example, The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (the purple line on the graph) have introduced fee increases for the last four years – typically between 5% and 3% annually.
- For comparison, the current cost for professional membership at The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists is £470 annually. This is £161 more a year than Council is proposing for our professional category.
- To ensure we can sustain and protect the delivery of vital support services for our members and the profession – we need to reflect the true cost of delivering them.



# What the proposed increase means for members

The modest increases proposed are **under £1** each month for all categories.

- For the majority of members who are in the Professional category, they will see an increase of just **99p** a month.
- Newly Registered, Self-Employed and Overseas members see an increase of **74p** per month.
- Associate members is an increase of **58p** per month.
- Students and Apprentices will see an increase of just **21p** per month.
- No changes to Career Break and Retired members to reflect the fact that significant benefits, such as UNISON and indemnity insurance, do not apply to them.

|                  | Current 2025–26 fee |        | Proposed fee for 2026–27 |        | £ difference |            |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|--------------|------------|
|                  | Year                | Month  | Year                     | Month  | Year         | Month      |
| Professional     | £297.19             | £24.77 | £309.08                  | £25.76 | £11.89       | <b>99p</b> |
| Self employed    | £223.02             | £18.59 | £231.94                  | £19.33 | £8.92        | <b>74p</b> |
| Newly registered | £223.02             | £18.59 | £231.94                  | £19.33 | £8.92        | <b>74p</b> |
| Students         | £61.51              | £5.13  | £63.97                   | £5.33  | £2.46        | <b>21p</b> |
| Associates       | £174.17             | £14.51 | £181.14                  | £15.10 | £6.97        | <b>58p</b> |
| Apprentices      | £61.51              | £5.13  | £63.97                   | £5.33  | £2.46        | <b>21p</b> |
| Overseas         | £223.02             | £18.59 | £231.94                  | £19.33 | £8.92        | <b>74p</b> |
| Career break     | £202.92             | £16.91 | £202.92                  | £16.91 | £0.00        | <b>0p</b>  |
| Retired          | £73.69              | £6.14  | £73.69                   | £6.14  | £0.00        | <b>0p</b>  |

This modest adjustment balances fairness with the need for financial sustainability, whilst still reflecting our commitment to keeping membership accessible.

# What your membership fees fund

Your fees directly power advocacy, representation, insurance, career long professional development and connection, alongside research and valuable resources that underpin evidence-based OT practice.



## Policy and public affairs

Advocating for you and the profession, influencing policy and firming workforce strategies.



## UNISON

Workplace negotiation and representation with legal and financial assistance. Members working in HEI also get joint membership to UCU or EIS.



## Indemnity insurance

Protection and peace of mind when on placement or working in the UK.



## Professional advisory service

Expert OT-led guidance on the phone or via email when you need it.



## Standards and guidelines

Professional standards and guidelines to support evidence informed practice.



## CPD resources

Access to valuable CPD resources which support you to develop and succeed.



## CPD portfolio

Record your career long learning and easily prepare for HCPC CPD audit.



## Research and innovation

Investing in future research and innovation to strengthen the evidence behind OT practice.



## Digital library and resources

Access databases and trusted evidence-based resources through our digital library.



## OTnews and Highlight

Keeping members informed on latest practice, innovations, policy and insight.



## RCOT communities

An inclusive platform for members to connect, collaborate and learn together.



## Leadership opportunities

Build leadership skills through volunteering and career development toolkits.

Simply put, your fees fund essential work and are an investment in both your professional development and the future of the profession.

# What happens if members vote against the increase

- To be totally transparent, without adjusting membership fees, rising cost pressures will lead to reductions in the level of support and resources we can offer. There would be a need to scale back on services or stop some entirely – which will have an impact on both members and the wider profession.
- This proposal ensures we can protect what we offer today and continue to deliver strong support in the years ahead.
- We want to do more to ensure our members receive timely, relevant and accessible support. Below are examples of improvements we want to make to strengthen our offer.



## Policy and public affairs

Enhancing the visibility of both national and local policy and public affairs activity.



## In-person conference

We plan to bring back an annual in person conference from next year.



## Funding opportunities

Grant funding for members to host more regional in-person events.



## Website improvements

Ongoing improvements e.g. implementing AI-enabled search to support quicker access to guidance and resources.



## Audio resources

Create audio summaries of key resources and embed more videos so members can digest information in a way more suited to you.

- The modest increase will help secure our finances and unlock opportunities to enhance member services – **but we can only do this with your help.**

# How and when to have your say

We hope we can count on our members' support for this proposal, recognising that it will help safeguard the support, services and representation you rely on.

We strongly encourage you to ask questions, be part of the conversation and the final decision at the BAOT AGM from **12.30pm, Thursday 25 June 2026**. Please save the date.

## How to submit questions before or during the AGM

You can ask questions about the fee proposal either at the AGM meeting or in advance. Advance questions help us prepare thorough responses, ensure we can address as many queries as possible and support the Chair to manage the agenda effectively.

Send your advance questions by email to Odeth Richardson, Chair at [hello@rcot.co.uk](mailto:hello@rcot.co.uk) and include AGM in the subject line.

## How to vote

Your BAOT AGM papers will be sent to you by Civica Election Services on 19 May either via email or via post. If you haven't received papers by 25 May, please contact [support@cesvotes.com](mailto:support@cesvotes.com).

Members can vote online at the AGM on 25 June or vote in advance by submitting a proxy form online or by post.

Instructions on proxy voting will be included in the AGM papers. A unique security code is required to vote online, and online proxy votes must be submitted by 12.30pm on Tuesday 23 June.

To submit proxy vote by post, you will need to appoint someone to vote on your behalf at the AGM. This can be the AGM Chair.

**In summary, this fee proposal strengthens our financial sustainability, protects core services, enables enhanced member support and resources, and helps drive the profession forward.**

For additional information and FAQs visit [www.rcot.co.uk/agm2026](http://www.rcot.co.uk/agm2026)

