

**GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES: PAYMENTS TO PERSONS SUSPENDED FROM GENERAL OPHTHALMIC SERVICES OPHTHALMIC AND SUPPLEMENTARY LISTS and PREMIUM RATE TELEPHONE LINES**

Primary Care Trusts are asked to note that SI 2006 No. 1550 came into force on 19<sup>th</sup> July. It amends existing regulations and provides for an appeal to the Secretary of State against a PCTs decision as to the amount to be paid to suspended General Ophthalmic Services contractors and assistants. This is accompanied by two determinations, which govern how PCTs calculate the sums. In addition SI 2006 No. 1550 prohibits the use of premium rate telephone lines by ophthalmic contractors and makes provisional arrangements in relation to them.

Primary Care Trusts are asked to:

- Comply with these new provisions when suspending someone on either the ophthalmic or ophthalmic supplementary list or if you discover a contractor is using a premium rate telephone line.
- Note that the Statutory Instrument amending the National Health Service (General Ophthalmic Services) Amendment Regulation 2006 has been laid and is available at [www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk) under SI number 2006 No. 1550.
- Download a copy of two determinations from [www.dh.gov.uk/ophthalmicservices](http://www.dh.gov.uk/ophthalmicservices)