Dear Practitioner

General Ophthalmic Services
Payments for Continuing Education and Training (CET)

1. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has agreed with the optical and medical professions that a payment for 2007 in respect of loss of earning associated with Continuing Education and Training will be £447.

The Payment

2. The payment is due to:
   - Optometrists; and
   - Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners (OMPs)

who were on the Ophthalmic List (NI) and provided General Ophthalmic Services for at least six months in the relevant year, and have maintained their professional registration. The payment is for having undertaken appropriate Continuing Education and Training which has been approved for GOS related CET purposes.
Claims

3. Claims must be made to the Central Services Agency by individual Optometrists/OMPs using claim form GOS(NI)CET.

4. Payments will be made to individual practitioners whose names appear on the Ophthalmic List (NI). Where a practice owner has provided or made available to practitioners sufficient CET to enable them to meet the statutory requirements for compulsory CET, then the payment may be passed by the practitioner to the practice owner. These individual arrangements are a matter for agreement between the practice owner and the practitioner and not for the Central Services Agency or Department.

5. Practitioners are not required to produce direct evidence of undertaking CET as a compulsory part of the claim or precondition of payment. However, the Central Services Agency/Boards or Department may conduct sample or selective checks if they deem it necessary to test the probity of HS payments. A claim may only be paid in respect of someone who has maintained their professional registration.

6. The claim form GOS(NI)CET is available from the Central Services Agency.

7. Claims must be made during the period from 1 September 2008 – 30 November 2008.

Any enquiries arising from this memorandum should be directed to Mrs Karen Lee, Ophthalmic Payments Department, Central Services Agency (leek@csa.n-i.nhs.uk).

To all Optometrists and Ophthalmic Medical Practitioners providing General Ophthalmic Services