

Do you have clients that registered a Power of Attorney between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2017?

If so they could be able to claim a partial refund of £34 - £45 against the registration fee originally paid.

The fee for registering a power of attorney, enduring or lasting, was reduced from £110 to £82 on 1 April 2017 (we kid you not) to reflect the fact that the registration fee income the Office of the Public Guardian received exceeded the cost of running the service, the service being 'not-for-profit'.

The Ministry of Justice have now decided that partial refund claims can be made in respect of fees paid between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2017.

We have had first-hand experience of the online process and found it both quick and easy to complete.

The refund payment has to be made to the donor's bank account. You will need the Office of the Public Guardian Reference (OPG) Number to state within the claims process. This OPG number appears on the actual Power of Attorney registration documents.

Once a claim has been submitted an email and text is provided quoting a claim code stating that the refund, if approved, will be paid by a certain date, in broad terms this is about 3 months from submitting the claim.

Further information on the criteria and the online or phone based claims process can be found on **GOV.UK website < <http://www.gov.uk/>>**. Claims must be made by 31 January 2021