

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Control of Entry Review

Many contractors will have been very surprised to learn that there will be another review of control of entry arrangements. Independents and multiples alike make significant investments to provide services to patients – many have recently invested heavily to implement the pharmacy contract. This adds a further period of uncertainty about the future which will not be welcomed.

Anne Galbraith brings to her role an understanding of pharmacy from her chairmanship, both of the Prescription Pricing Authority and the Advisory Group on the reform of the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 1992. It is reassuring to know that a person with her expertise will be leading the review and we look forward to meeting with her.

The Report of the Department of Health's review includes many good elements, particularly the analysis showing the excellent levels of access to services that pharmacies provide today. It is essential that in the future these levels are maintained and improved in the most deprived areas, where the population has particularly high health needs.

We recognise that there are aspects of the present arrangements, in particular the financial and administrative burdens they impose on PCTs, that should be improved, and we look forward to making a positive contribution to Anne Galbraith's review and the formal consultation that may follow. In particular, as well as building greater access, we are keen to develop the services that pharmacies provide to help achieve the public health aims of the White Paper *Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*. The government has, in community pharmacy, a unique resource for implementing these goals and we need to ensure that the regulatory framework supports pharmacy owners in providing the confidence they need to invest.

Note: This statement is based on the information available from the written ministerial statement made on 11 January. Further information may be available following the launch event on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**-ENDS-**

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