

PRESS RELEASE



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PSNC RESPONDS TO ANNOUNCED CONTINUATION OF CONTROL OF ENTRY EXEMPTIONS

Following the Government's announcement today that the exemptions from the control of entry test will remain in place, pending the introduction of revised arrangements, Steve Lutener, PSNC's Head of Regulation said:

"PSNC had requested a moratorium on further use of the present exemptions, until the introduction of a revised 'control of entry test'.

"PSNC believes the Government is right to support a planned system for pharmacies. Although we have concerns about some elements of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment system, specifically the need to ensure that PNAs are robust and carefully developed, we believe that this is the better approach and the decision to allow further applications under the exemptions is regrettable.

"Today's announcement means that whilst care should be taken in introducing the revised legislative framework, rapid progress towards its establishment is all the more important."

~Ends~

*For further information please contact the PSNC press office
on 0207 618 9187 or at psnc@luther.co.uk.*

Notes to Editor

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England on NHS matters.
2. The Written Ministerial Statement announcing this decision will be uploaded to Hansard on the morning of the 19th June.
3. The exemption will remain in place pending the introduction of Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs), which are included in the Health Bill currently before Parliament.