

PRESS RELEASE



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PSNC RESPONDS TO ARTICLE IN THE TIMES ON DRUG STOCKS

5 May 2009: In response to an article in The Times on drug stocks (Stocks of drugs dwindle as chemists sell them abroad for higher profits, 3 May 2009), Sue Sharpe, PSNC's chief executive, said:

"PSNC's priority is to ensure that patients receive the medicines they need when they need them, and we are confident that all pharmacists share that priority. We do not condone the export of medicines that are in short supply. We encourage pharmacy businesses to ensure that they give priority to their patients.

"The EU's free trade policy encourages trade in pharmaceuticals across Europe and this means both importing and exporting of medicines is significant. In this country, wholesaling and exporting, subject to the business holding the relevant licences from the MHRA, is legal. The MHRA has issued many hundreds of wholesale dealer licences, some of which are held by companies that also own pharmacy businesses in the UK.

"PSNC has concerns about the impact of recent action by pharmaceutical manufacturers to limit supplies of medicines in the UK. Pharmacy businesses are working hard to manage and maintain supplies for patients but this action by manufacturers is leading to supply problems. With BAPW we have recently written to manufacturers proposing a system to ensure that no patients will be unable to receive a medicine prescribed for them, and we hope the manufacturers will work with us."

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