

## **PSNC RESPONDS TO OFT'S EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF PARTIAL LIBERALISATION OF THE PHARMACY MARKET**

*23 March* – On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Office of Fair Trading released a report which evaluates the impact of partial liberalisation of the pharmacy market.

Commenting on the report, Sue Sharpe, Chief Executive of PSNC, said:

“PSNC led a campaign to prevent full deregulation of pharmacy markets after the OFT proposed this deregulation in 2003. We opposed deregulation on the basis that a planned pharmacy service was in the best interests of NHS patients and was more responsive to the particular needs of local communities. Nothing that has happened since 2003 has led us to question this viewpoint, and we note with interest that the OFT's report does not repeat the call for full deregulation.

“PSNC supports the introduction of Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs) and looks forward to working with PCTs to ensure that these are based on robust and comprehensive assessment of community need. We support the removal of existing exemptions, and agree with the current consensus that a partially planned market is the best way forward”.

**~Ends~**

### **Notes to Editor**

1. PSNC (The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee) is the body that represents community pharmacies in England and Wales on NHS matters.
2. Changes to liberalise the pharmacies market were first outlined in the OFT's 2003 market study into the sector.

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