

PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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PSNC STATEMENT

The Shadow Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley, has stated in a press release issued this morning that:

"In the first two years of the new pharmacy contract, the Department of Health has overpaid pharmacies for dispensing drugs by £811 million."

PSNC believes that there has been a misunderstanding of figures provided to Mr Lansley. The figure mentioned in the statement fails to take into account the measures taken to ensure repayment by contractors of profit beyond the levels agreed in the contractual framework. PSNC and the Department of Health expect that total funding for this year will be on target by the end of the financial year.

The Department of Health and PSNC jointly monitor the delivery of the agreed contract funding to ensure that payments to community pharmacies reflect the levels agreed.

PSNC is currently working with DH to ensure that a fair, transparent and consistent mechanism exists for payment under the contractual framework.

-- ENDS --

Notes for editors:

1. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is the body that represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to secure the best possible NHS services provided by pharmacy contractors in England and Wales.

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