



Daily Update

Friday 12th March 2021

This daily update contains important information for community pharmacy teams about the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In today's update: New video message from PSNC CEO; MPs back pharmacy in debate.

New video message from PSNC CEO

PSNC Chief Executive Simon Dukes has recorded another video message for community pharmacy contractors and their teams.

In the video, Simon reports on a pharmacy debate held in Parliament that saw MPs from across the country talking about how valued community pharmacies are by their constituents. Highlighting just some of the support shown during the debate, he summarises the clear message that PSNC is giving to Ministers: the services that community pharmacies have been providing throughout the pandemic are hugely valued by patients and local communities, and they need paying for.

[Watch Simon's video message here](#)

MPs back pharmacy and call for greater financial support in Westminster Hall debate

MPs from across all political parties expressed their support and appreciation for community pharmacies yesterday (11 March), during a Westminster Hall debate on the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector.

Jackie Doyle-Price, Conservative MP for Thurrock and Chair of the All-Party Pharmacy Group (APPG), led the debate, which was attended by MPs across multiple political parties, all of whom spoke passionately about their local pharmacies and the sector's response to the pandemic. Many drew on the recommendations of the [APPG's December 2020 inquiry](#) and also questioned whether the financial support offered by the Government for the sector has been sufficient.

All of the MPs spoke highly of their local pharmacies, particularly regarding their important role in providing patients with healthcare advice. Some also praised the contribution of pharmacy teams in the COVID-19 vaccination programme so far, calling for a greater role for pharmacies in the long term.

But alongside the praise for the positive work pharmacies have been doing throughout the pandemic, MPs also discussed the financial pressures facing the sector and warned of the risks if no further action is taken. Many voiced particular concern about the implications of asking pharmacy contractors to repay some of the £370m advance payments.

[Read more about the debate here](#)

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