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| PSNC Newsletter |
| Monday 20th March 2023 |

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|  | This newsletter from PSNC is sent on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It contains important information for those that work in the community pharmacy sector.In this update: House of Lords discuss community pharmacy; MP event and new poster for pharmacy campaign; voting open in PSNC elections.Peers hold parliamentary debate on community pharmacyCommunity pharmacies received strong backing today in the House of Lords, with a number of Peers speaking out in support of pharmacies and others asking when Government would address the current crisis in the sector.The House of Lords oral questions session began by asking what plans the Government has for making the best use of community pharmacies, and eleven other peers then followed on with their own related questions for the Government Minister.PSNC briefed Peers across all parties ahead of the session, with many speakers referencing our most recent briefing.During the session peers addressed a range of important issues, including: recent pharmacy closures and underfunding; the potential of introducing a fairly funded pharmacy first service; PCNs recruiting community pharmacists; and concerns that closures would increase health inequalities.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=c2810950bb&e=d19e9fd41c)Save our Pharmacies campaign gains momentumPharmacy leaders are set to brief MPs on the severe challenges facing community pharmacies this week as part of a wave of #SaveOurPharmacies campaign activities.Tomorrow's (Tuesday 21st March) roundtable summit will include discussions on the urgent action needed to address the current severe challenges being faced by community pharmacy, as well as the sector's role in the upcoming Primary Care Recovery Plan.Also this week, pharmacies are being encouraged to take part in the campaign and to look out for posters being delivered to them.The Parliamentary event this week has been coordinated by PSNC as part of the joint [**#SaveOurPharmacies campaign**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=dfdc8834af&e=d19e9fd41c). At the event, MPs will hear about the issues impacting pharmacies and have a chance to speak to sector representatives about the delivery of vital services on the frontline and the potential for a fully funded Pharmacy First service.**Petition update**The public [**#SaveOurPharmacies petition**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=87feddd2a5&e=d19e9fd41c) exceeded 30,000 signatories on Friday. This is a good start, but we need to continue to build the numbers to show the strength of support for our cause.Please make use of the resources on the [**campaign website**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=0d5c38b3c4&e=d19e9fd41c) to help promote the petition and wider campaign. Also, don't forget that anyone can sign the petition, so we encourage contractors, pharmacy staff, friends and family to add their name, as well as patients.[**Learn more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=2bd5167536&e=d19e9fd41c)PSNC Elections – final stage of votingElections for non-CCA Multiple Representatives and Regional Representatives on PSNC (soon to be Community Pharmacy England) started on 9th March. Voting contractors were sent an email to either the head office contact or premises shared NHSmail address detailing who is standing for election and a unique link to the voting portal.We advise that contractors make their vote as soon as possible before the deadline of **12 noon on 24th March**. As reported previously, Civica, the independent scrutineer for the elections, may not be able to process the queries if submitted too close to voting deadlines. Queries should therefore be made no later than 12 noon on 22nd March.Any questions about your vote or the process should be submitted promptly via the webform available at the PSNC elections webpage.[**Find out more**](https://psnc.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=86d41ab7fa4c7c2c5d7210782&id=6f7977c35b&e=d19e9fd41c) |  |
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