Dear xx MP,

I hope you are well.

As a [local pharmacist/ pharmacy owner/ member of [LPC] in [constituency]], I wanted to thank you for all your support for our local community pharmacies.

I wanted to also bring to your attention a recent pharmacy pressures survey conducted by PSNC (soon to be Community Pharmacy England), which has received significant media coverage ([Channel 4](https://www.channel4.com/news/pharmacies-on-brink-of-collapse-in-england), [Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/medicine-supply-shortages-uk-pharmacy-b2318907.html), [Evening Standard](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/health/pharmacists-hrt-nhs-government-people-b1073786.html)).

**You can find a specific MP summary of the results** [**here**](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Pharmacy-Pressures-Survey-2023-Key-Findings-MP-Briefing.pdf)**.**

In short, the survey confirms that pharmacy staff and businesses are facing a worsening situation due to rising costs and significantly increased workload.

**Key figures:**

* A staggering 98% of pharmacy teams say patients are being negatively impacted by the pressures.
* 84% of pharmacy teams reported experiencing aggression from patients due to medicine supply issues.
* 92% of pharmacy staff have seen a significant increase in requests from patients unable to access General Practice

It is clear from this survey that community pharmacies need an urgent financial injection to reduce the pressures they face and as well as the impact these pressures are having on patients.

The best way to do this, in my opinion, is via a fully funded [Pharmacy First service](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Pharmacy-First-Briefing-April-2023.pdf) for minor illnesses. I am not alone in thinking this.

Recent YouGov [polling](https://psnc.org.uk/our-news/public-overwhelmingly-back-pharmacy-first/#:~:text=YouGov%20polling%20commissioned%20by%20PSNC%20has%20shown%20the,beneficial%20for%20pharmacies%2C%20patients%20and%20the%20wider%20NHS.) shows that:

* **68% of people would find it easier to seek health advice for common conditions at a community pharmacy rather than a GP surgery.**
* **75% agree that pharmacies should offer more healthcare services.**

[Local pharmacy landscape if desired]

We would greatly appreciate your support in writing to the Minister for Primary Care and Patient Safety and the Prime Minister to encourage the Government to commit to implementing a Pharmacy First service across England.

If you require any further information, please get in touch with George Foote (George.Foote@psnc.org.uk).

Many thanks for your support,

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