



## Peter Dowd MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care  
Department of Health and Social Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0EU

8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

We recently attended an event in Parliament held by Community Pharmacy England which provided a welcome briefing on community pharmacies. We were pleased to hear about both the range of services on offer from pharmacies – including the recently launched Pharmacy First, to which more than 96% of the sector have signed up – and with their potential to do even more to support your vision for the NHS.

But we also heard about the financial pressures that our community pharmacies are facing, and the real risks of further pharmacy closures, with one-in-six pharmacy owners saying they are unsure if their pharmacy will survive the year. We also heard the sector calling for further, more effective, marketing of Pharmacy First to drive up both walk-ins and referrals to this critical service.

We write to express our support for our local community pharmacies and we look forward to hearing how the new Government is working to stabilise this vital part of our healthcare system and tapping into its unrealised potential. In particular we hope that the Department and NHS England will plan for the future of this vital sector, including how to bring to life the Community Pharmacist Prescribing Service and other clinical service expansions once firm funding foundations are in place.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Dowd MP  
Greg Stafford MP  
Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville  
Sadik Al-Hassan MP  
Tom Gordon MP  
Jonathan Brash MP  
Alex Brewer MP  
Luke Akehurst MP  
Lisa Smart MP  
Vikki Slade MP  
Patrick Hurley MP  
Neil Shastri-Hurst MP  
Helen Morgan MP  
Matt Turmaine MP  
Claire Young MP  
Toby Perkins MP  
Sarah Dyke MP  
Ben Maguire MP  
Roz Savage MP  
Caroline Voaden MP

Bootle Constituency

Representing the communities of

Bootle, Crosby, Ford, Litherland, Netherton, Old Roan, Orrell, Seaforth and Waterloo

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