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## Legislation and Regulatory Subcommittee Minutes

**Date:** 10 December 2024

**Time:** 3:00 – 4:30 pm

**Location:** Remote via Teams

**Members present:** Ian Cubbin (Chair), Stephen Thomas, Peter Cattee, Lindsey Fairbrother, Gary Warner.

**In attendance:** David Broome, Phil Day, Jas Heer, Ifti Khan, Tricia Kennerley, Anil Sharma, Alastair Buxton (Director of Services) (part of the meeting), Mike Dent (Director of Pharmacy Funding), Gordon Hockey (Director, Legal), Katrina Worthington (Regulations Officer).

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Marc Donovan and Adrian Price who had each provided comments on the agenda papers.

**Conflicts of interest:** No additional conflicts declared.

**Minutes of the last meeting:** The subcommittee approved the minutes of the meeting in September 2024.

**Matters arising:** No matters arising that were not already included in the agenda.

**Actions from the last meeting:** These were reviewed.

### Action

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## Waste charges consultation

19. The Regulations Officer introduced the agenda paper outlining the Government consultation.

20. The subcommittee endorsed the following points in the agenda paper opposing the proposed charges for community pharmacy:

- The chronic underfunding of the sector means the sector simply cannot cope with any additional costs unless this is compensated in NHS funding to the sector, agreed with the Government.

- Registration is unnecessary since all community pharmacies must be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council, which regulates the pharmacy sector; and are listed with the NHS as a requirement of the NHS 'contract' which each NHS pharmacy must have to provide NHS pharmacy services.
- The compliance costs are significantly less for community pharmacies because the GPhC inspects pharmacies on a regular basis, identifying and addressing issues as they arise, and the NHS also visits pharmacies and carries out other audit and compliance activities. This should mean that the Environmental Agency has less need to visit NHS pharmacies.
- There are also other waste activities carried out by community pharmacies that do not require registration; so NHS community pharmacy use of the T28 exemption could be without the required registration.

21. Adding that:

- Other businesses can raise their costs to customers, but NHS pharmacies cannot charge NHS patients.
- Waste disposal is part of NHS requirements and organised activity so any related charges should be paid for by the NHS.
- Collection of medicines by community pharmacy is part of removing or reducing risks for patients, households and the public and this should not be undermined by additional charges – which could ultimately mean that pharmacies stop providing this service.

**ACTION:** It was agreed that a response to the consultation should be drafted following the above points

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## Reports

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