



Draft Legislation and Regulatory Subcommittee Minutes

Date: 04 February 2026

Start time: 2:00 pm

Location: Hosier Lane, London

Members present: Lindsey Fairbrother (Chair), Stephen Thomas (Vice Chair), Sukhi Basra, Peter Catee, Marc Donovan, and Gary Warner. [Dervis Gurol attended the meeting, and the day after, was appointed to the subcommittee.]

In attendance: David Broome, Mike Hewitson, Tricia Kennerley, Ifti Khan, Niamh McMillan, Has Modi, Jay Patel, Adrian Price, Anil Sharma, Ian Strachan, Becky Butterworth (LPC Engagement and Support Manager), James Davies (Director of Research and Insights), Mike Dent (Director of Pharmacy Funding), Jenny Harries (CPE Chair), Gordon Hockey (Director, Legal), Melinda Mabbutt (Head of Communications), Janet Morrison (Chief Executive), Katrina Worthington (Regulations Officer).

LPC members present: Tracey Latham-Green (Chief Officer, Lincolnshire LPC), Peter Prokopa (Chief Officer, Shropshire LPC), Rob Severn (Chair, Nottinghamshire LPC).

Apologies: There were none.

Conflicts of interest: There were no additions.

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the November 2025 meeting were agreed.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

Workplan: The Draft Workplan 2026/27 for the Regulations Team was approved.

Actions

Item 1: ---- (Confidential – negotiation prep)

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Item 2: ----- (Confidential)

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Item 3: ---- (Confidential until announced)

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Reports

Item 4: ---- (Confidential)

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Item 5: NHS Sexual Safety Charter

5.1 The subcommittee noted the report with the following comments:

- The relevant regulations don't come into force until October this year.
- It was unfortunate that the initial NHSE/ICB communications in December did not clarify that signing up to the Charter and completing the self-assessment checklist is not mandatory for community pharmacy.
- CPE advice is encouraging pharmacy owners to consider using the Charter to help prepare for the legislative changes in October.
- For some, it was considered that the Charter and self-assessment checklist might help them on their journey to meet their legal obligations.
- Some members indicated that they will not utilise the Charter or self-assessment checklist, and they/their HR departments are working on meeting the legal requirements in good time.
- For ICBs to check that pharmacy owners have signed up to the Charter and completed the self-assessment checklist would be unhelpful and unwarranted.
- Not responding to the ICB could damage the reputation of the sector if others perceive this as an unwillingness to comply with the legislation.
- NHSE/ICBs are not asking pharmacy owners to be ready for the legislation early, but are asking them to start the journey to compliance now.



5.2 The Director, Legal, indicated that the points made by the subcommittee would be fed back to NHSE, indicating support for the legislation change, the Charter and the self-assessment checklist, but emphasising that the ICB-imposed deadlines are not part of pharmacy owners' terms of service, and some may engage with the help offered and others not; and chasing owners for replies would be unhelpful and unwarranted.

ACTION: Provide Comments to NHSE as indicated above.

Item 6: ---- (Confidential)

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Item 7: ---- (Confidential)

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AOB

It was noted that enforcement has been a recurring theme during the say, in this subcommittee and FunCon, and that while ICBs may not have the resources to carry out enforcement, it remains necessary to ensure a level playing field, under which pharmacy owners provide pharmaceutical services to patients and compete with each other. It was suggested that enforcement could be raised in the forthcoming negotiations.