

Engaging your Local MP

A practical guide for LPCs and pharmacy owners

Please note: this guide covers how to engage with your MP using the findings of the Pharmacy Pressures Survey 2026. You may also want to refer to the wider Pressures Survey findings (available on the website). Further guidance for engaging with MPs more generally and on other topics is available on the website and also being updated.

Community pharmacies are under severe and ongoing pressure and it is important that we continue to highlight and evidence that pressure to MPs, and help them to advocate on behalf of the sector. The 2026 Pharmacy Pressures Survey provides some of this evidence, showing once again that the situation is serious and unsustainable, with direct consequences for patients, pharmacy teams, and the wider NHS.

LPCs and pharmacy owners can play a vital role in ensuring MPs understand what is happening locally and why urgent Government action is needed. This guide is designed to help you secure meetings or pharmacy visits and make a strong, evidence-based case. Please do let us know how you get on by emailing commsteam@cpe.org.uk

Why engage your MP

MPs can influence Government decisions on funding, workforce, and medicines supply. They can do this via Parliamentary activity such as debates, asking written questions, and taking part in oral questions sessions, as well as by writing to Ministers. As well as receiving national briefings from us, they need to hear directly from local pharmacies about the scale and urgency of the problems that you are facing.

Our latest national data shows that:

- **100%** of pharmacies report higher operating costs; **47%** say significantly higher
- **64%** are losing money; only **14%** are profitable
- **6.6%** say they may not survive the next year
- **76%** report patient services are already being affected
- **89%** cannot source some medicines
- **72.5%** say patients wait longer for advice; **69%** for prescriptions
- **40%** report staff shortages; recruitment is a major challenge

Bottom line: Without urgent action, pharmacies will continue to reduce services and we will continue to see pharmacy closures, reducing access to vital services and healthcare advice and increasing pressure on GPs and hospitals.

Key messages to communicate

We recommend focusing on a small number of clear, evidence-based points.

- Community pharmacies are a vital NHS front door under severe strain:
 - Pharmacies provide walk-in care, medicines and advice without an appointment, but they are under huge pressures.

- **75%** are losing money and only **14%** are profitable.
- **Pressures are being driven by a wide range of factors including:**
 - **Rising workload** – as prescription volumes and demand for healthcare advice continue to rise. Medicines supply issues also add to pressures.
 - **A financial squeeze** – there is a £2 billion funding gap between the economic costs of the services that pharmacies provide and what they are paid to do so.
 - **Rising costs and inflation** – staff, utilities, business rates and all other costs are rising for pharmacies.
- **Pharmacies are dispensing at a loss and struggling with cashflow:**
 - **11%** cannot pay suppliers on time
 - **25%** of owners took no salary
- **Medicines supply problems are widespread:**
 - Almost all (**99%**) pharmacies say NHS payments do not cover their medicine costs. **100%** report increased supply chain issues
 - **86%** spend more time sourcing medicines
- **Pharmacy services are being scaled back:**
 - **30%** of pharmacies have already cut opening hours
 - **22%** plan further cuts
 - **29%** may start charging for previously free services
- **Patient access is already deteriorating:**
 - **76%** report impacts on patient care
 - **83%** cannot respond to patients as quickly
 - **39%** cannot spend as much time advising patients

Our ask of Government is: Sustainable funding for community pharmacies alongside a clear roadmap for the future and reforms to medicines reimbursement and supply.

How to engage your MP

Email your MP directly. To identify your Member of Parliament (MP) in the UK, enter your postcode on the [UK Parliament website](#) to find the MP who represents your constituency. This will provide your MP's name, contact details, and information about how to get in touch regarding local or national issues.

Keep the message short, focused on local impact, and request a local pharmacy visit. We recommend following up around 5–7 days after your initial email if you have not heard from your MP or their office.

Email template: We recommend approaching your MP based on the following template:

Dear [MP name],

I am writing on behalf of [LPC name], representing community pharmacies across [area].

OR

I am writing to you as the owner of [pharmacy name] in your constituency.

[Introduce information on your local area/business, for example the number of pharmacies you represent/own, services provided, patient demographics.]

Locally, the pressures we are feeling are intense. Patients are waiting longer for prescriptions, vital services are being reduced, and pharmacies are struggling just to remain viable. [Pharmacy owners may want to share a few sentences here about your day-to-day challenges and what they mean for your patients.]

We are doing our absolute best to continue to serve our community. Community pharmacies are not only essential healthcare providers, but we are also trusted, accessible hubs of care and important pillars of the local high street, supporting both patient wellbeing and local economic vitality. However, our ability to maintain this care is under severe threat.

Our local struggles reflect a wider crisis across the sector. Data from Community Pharmacy England's recent Pharmacy Pressures Survey highlights the stark national picture:

- **100%** of pharmacies report rising costs
- **64%** are now losing money and only **14%** are profitable
- **76%** say patient services are already affected
- **89%** struggle daily with high-stress medicine supply issues

Without urgent Government action, access to pharmacy services both nationally and right here in [area] will continue to decline.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at [pharmacy name / a local pharmacy] to discuss these challenges first-hand and explore how you can support community pharmacy in your constituency.

Please let me know your availability.

Kind regards,

[Name]

[Role / LPC]

[Contact details]

Meeting your MP: Within the meeting, be clear on your key messages and your 'ask' of the MP (see requests below). Use a few headline statistics but focus on local examples, local pharmacy context, and real patient impact.

Emphasise what needs to change (a sustainable funding model for community pharmacy, support for the increasing workload and complexities for pharmacies, due to medicines supply challenges, workforce shortages and growing patient demand).

Request next steps: Ask your MP to challenge the Government on how they plan to address these issues by:

- Raising Parliamentary Questions on your behalf
- Writing to relevant Ministers
- Acting as an advocate for the community pharmacy sector in Parliament

Community Pharmacy England will be sharing further materials to support with how to engage with your MP during the meeting over the coming weeks. If you need urgent support with this, please email us: comms.team@cpe.org.uk