

Elena Whitham MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

25 May 2023

Dear Minister

Thank you very much for taking the time to meet with me today to discuss Royal Pharmaceutical Society's policy, 'Pharmacy's role in reducing harm and preventing drug deaths'.

I was really pleased to hear that we agree on several important policy areas including:

- The need to normalise availability of naloxone within community pharmacies so this is easily accessible when required.
- Access to patient records for pharmacists is important to ensure enhanced patient outcomes and safety, particularly within a drug and alcohol context.
- Managing patients' transitions between care settings, including prisons, is extremely important for continuity of care.
- Introducing supervised drug consumption rooms would be a very positive move, which would provide additional opportunities to provide targeted intervention and support to patients when this is most needed.

During the meeting, you expressed a particular interest in the work we are undertaking in collaboration with Scottish Government, MSPs and other health professional leadership bodies to advance discussions and implementation of patient data sharing. As I mentioned in the meeting, we co-hosted a round table with General Pharmaceutical Council on this in October 2022. The agreed outcomes from the round table are attached with this letter for your interest. I would be very happy to keep you updated on the progress of this work if this would be helpful.

I look forward to continuing to work with you. Please do contact me at any time if you would like Royal Pharmaceutical Society to provide any support or input into any work in the future.

Yours sincerely



Laura Wilson
Director for Scotland
Royal Pharmaceutical Society

CC: Professor Alison Strath, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Scotland; Bryan Lamb, Head of Pharmacy Policy, Scottish Government

Past Patron: Her Majesty The Late Queen Elizabeth II

Chief Executive: Paul Bennett

