

Martin Ellis  
Road User Licensing, Insurance & Safety  
Department for Transport  
Zone 3/21  
Great Minster House  
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London SW1P 4DR

### **Drug Driving – Consultation on proposed regulations**

Dear Martin,

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society is pleased to have the opportunity to respond to your consultation on new drug driving regulations. This is a complex area which and we have consulted with specialists from the pharmacy profession in order to give you expert opinion on your consultation questions.

We are therefore pleased to endorse the response from the UK Clinical Pharmacists Association which we have attached to the accompanying e mail. We would also like to draw your attention to a separate submissions you will receive from the addiction services where the expertise of specialist pharmacists in substance misuse have raised some pertinent points particular to patients being treated for substance misuse .

We would raise two further points:

Currently warning labels and information on the hazards of driving if affected by certain preparations are included in the dispensing process but with changes to the medicines act not all products might contain these e.g. children's medicines could have the 'do not drive or operate machinery' warning removed as inappropriate. We would like clarity on the implications for pharmacists who dispense these drugs as pharmacists have no control over how a medicine is administered or taken by individuals when it has left the pharmacy, despite either verbal or written advice.

We would also draw attention to the complexities of individual metabolism of drugs, including tolerance to opiates and interactions with other medication affecting blood levels but not always impairment.

These issues should be considered further and we are happy to discuss if we can be of assistance.

Best regards,



David Brandford  
Chair English Pharmacy Board

John Cromarty  
Chair Scottish Pharmacy Board

Mair Davies  
Chair Welsh Pharmacy Board

## About us

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional body for every pharmacist in Great Britain. We are the only body that represents all sectors and specialisms of pharmacy in Great Britain.

The RPS leads and supports the development of the pharmacy profession to deliver excellence of care and service to patients and the public. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy and the provision of professional standards and guidance to promote and deliver excellence. In addition, it promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

Its functions and services include:

**Leadership, representation and advocacy:** Ensuring the expertise of the pharmacist is heard by governments, the media and the public.

**Professional development, education and support:** helping pharmacists deliver excellent care and also to advance their careers through professional advancement, career advice and guidance on good practice.

**Professional networking and publications:** hosting and facilitating a series of communication channels to enable pharmacists to discuss areas of common interest, develop and learn.