



# Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Helping pharmacists achieve excellence

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Dear Mr Nicholas Smith

## **Re: Public Consultation on Continuing Need for a Controlled Activity Category in the Vetting and Barring Scheme**

We write on behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to respond to the above consultation document.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is the current professional and regulatory body for pharmacists in England, Scotland and Wales. It also regulates pharmacy technicians on a voluntary basis, which is expected to become statutory under anticipated legislation. The primary objectives of the Society are to lead, regulate, develop and represent the profession of pharmacy. The Society leads and supports the development of the profession within the context of the public benefit. This includes the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy whilst, it also promotes the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums. Following the publication in 2007 of the Government White Paper Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century, the Society is working towards the demerger of its regulatory and professional roles. This will see the establishment of a new General Pharmaceutical Council and a new Professional body in 2010.

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain consider the existence of two categories for vetting and barring (regulated and controlled) to be confusing and unnecessary and we welcome proposals in principle to remove the controlled category by moving some posts out of regulation completely and moving higher risk profile roles into regulated activity.

Within the pharmacy setting, it is understood that if applicable, controlled activities would most likely apply to pharmacy support staff as pharmacists themselves in both hospital and community sectors are more likely to be captured within regulated activities. We note that in respect of controlled activities and pharmacy support staff, there remains ongoing areas of discussion between the government and pharmacy bodies on applicability, and if applicable it is thought to apply by virtue of the access to the electronic patient medication record. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain regard that these roles should not be moved into regulated activity and agree that there is no evidence or strong concern that indicates that

they should, we therefore would like to see these roles moved outside of regulation completely under the vetting and barring scheme.

We hope these comments are useful.

Thank you for contacting the Society.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine Duggan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Catherine Duggan.

Director of Professional Development & Support.