

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

By email

28 June 2021

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society I would like to extend my congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. As the professional leadership body for pharmacists working across Great Britain, we look forward to working with you so that you and your department are informed about the extensive role pharmacy plays in the nation's health and to ensure the profession's skills are fully utilised in developing and implementing health care solutions.

As you will be aware, pharmacists are making vital contributions to health care in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the face of this global crisis, pharmacy teams continue to go above and beyond to ensure the public receive the treatments they need. Their extraordinary dedication to supporting patient care, as well as their leadership in the management of medicines and in the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, has received increasing recognition from the public, senior leaders in the NHS and the Government. We hope that you will find the opportunity at the appropriate time to meet some of those pharmacy heroes working on the frontline and we would be happy to help facilitate this.

As we move out of pandemic, it is imperative that the pharmacy profession continues to be recognised and supported in its important role in the NHS COVID19 recovery plans. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society engaged extensively with the profession and stakeholders about lessons learned during COVID-19, including with patient groups and royal colleges. We have shared our report, [The Future of Pharmacy in a Sustainable NHS](#) and several further recommendations with the department, covering issues such as pharmacy integration, medicines safety, workforce, and digital infrastructure. Going forward, these skills must be harnessed in strategic and operational approaches to recovery from the pandemic to help reduce pressure on the rest of the healthcare system and manage the backlog of routine clinical care.

The role of pharmacy and its evolution to meet patient needs will also be important to the new health service reforms, establishment of Integrated Care Systems and the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan. Patients would benefit hugely from pharmacists having a fundamental role in longer term, post pandemic approaches to health care and we must ensure that the role and contribution of pharmacy is well established in every Integrated Care System. This will depend on better integration across care settings, making greater use of pharmacists' clinical skills, supporting education and training, and boosting public health and prevention to help manage demands on the health service.

With continued pressures on the NHS, we would welcome a meeting with you on how pharmacists can contribute even more to improving care as well as supporting capacity developments across the healthcare system for the benefit of patients and the NHS.

Yours sincerely,



Thorrun Govind (MRPharmS)
Chair, English Pharmacy Board

Cc: Jo Churchill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health
Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England



Patron:
Her Majesty The Queen

Chief Executive:
Paul Bennett FRPharmS

English Pharmacy Board Chair:
Thorrun Govind MRPharmS