

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

By email

July 2020

Public Sector Pay Rise: Recognising pharmacy's vital contribution to our health service

Dear Chancellor

Your recent announcement in support of real term pay increases for the public sector has rightly recognised the essential contribution made to society by this important workforce. However, it has failed to recognise the critical role of the pharmacy profession and other healthcare professionals working in and for the NHS.

As the professional body representing the third largest health care profession, we strongly urge you to take action and extend this pay rise to all pharmacists, many of whom work on the front-line. Pay settlements for the pharmacy profession have not kept up with the pace of inflation over the past decade, effectively resulting in pay regression. The omission of pharmacists and their teams from this round of pay awards only compounds this issue and quite frankly is yet another kick in the teeth for the profession. It also has significant implications for the future attractiveness of the profession and the recruitment to essential pharmacist posts. As well taking action to extend this week's pay rise to NHS employed pharmacists, we also encourage the Government to undertake a wider pay review of pharmacists across all sectors.

You will undoubtedly be aware that the commitment of the profession to patient care is unwavering. The pharmacy response and clinical leadership shown during the pandemic has been exceptional and has attracted unparalleled public acknowledgement and support across the country. It is incredibly disappointing therefore that the omission of pharmacists and their teams in the current support for pay increases is yet another example of the poor acknowledgement of their essential role by the Government.

It is astonishing that we have to continuously fight for the profession to be recognised in Government initiatives, rather than benefiting from automatic recognition as key members of the NHS workforce. It is no longer acceptable for the profession to be an afterthought in important national initiatives such as the deployment of PPE and inclusion in death in service benefits. This situation must change to one where the pharmacy profession is automatically included in national plans and where parity is assured with other health professions, who equally provide essential contributions to the NHS.

As Chancellor you have the privilege to move the agenda forward for a fair and appropriate real term pay deal for the pharmacy profession working as part of the NHS. We appreciate the omission of pharmacists and their teams in the recent approval of pay increases may have been an oversight and we urge you to take action to ensure the pharmacy profession and their continued dedication to patient care is rightfully acknowledged.

We would be pleased to discuss how this should be resolved with you and your officials.
Yours sincerely,



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President



Prof Claire Anderson FRPharmS
Chair, English Pharmacy Board

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Her Majesty The Queen
Chief Executive:
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CC: Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Scottish Government
Minister for Finance, Welsh Government
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Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Scottish Government
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