

Clarification questions submitted to the Review Steering Group – Week ending Friday 13th May 2022

Can you confirm if the plan is to reduce the PSNC committee in line with the current proportion of representation between multiples and independents (using the current definition), with CCA, nonCCA multiples, Regional Reps, and NPA all still present?

Yes. The proposal set out by the RSG is to reduce the size of PSNC whilst maintaining the current balance between independents and multiples: this will maintain unity and representation of all the main parts of the sector. The rationale for maintaining balance between 50% multiples (CCA and nonCCA) and 50% independents (regional representatives and NPA) is that if either sector had more than 50%, they could make a majority decision on a policy issue that was opposed by the other sector, and PSNC would not, in that case, be reflecting the views of the general body of contractors in England.

Note: Proposal 9, page 14 of the proposals document – Reduce the numbers of PSNC members whilst maintaining the **current** balance between independents and multiples: maintaining unity and representation of all parts of the sector

How is the PSNC committee constituted at the moment and where is the balance?

15 – 15 balance between independents and multiples (plus an external non-executive Chair and 1 place reserved for Community Pharmacy Wales).

Independents:

- 13 members elected on a regional basis from England (PSNC regional representatives)
- 2 members nominated by the Board of the National Pharmacy Association

Multiples:

- 12 members nominated by the Company Chemists' Association
- 3 members elected from the non-Company Chemists' Association multiples

Note: Further information is available at <https://psnc.org.uk/psncs-work/about-psnc/psnc-members/>

Does this all mean that PSNC is not representative of the sector?

No, it does not mean that. As set out in question 1, PSNC is structured in a way that allows it to be representative of the general body of contractors in England. Indeed, the RSG, working with the sector, could not find any alternative way to structure PSNC that had support of the main parts of the sector. The PSNC constitution and rules are structured so that no big contractor or grouping has the majority, and no small contractor or grouping holds the balance of power between bigger groups.

If PSNC receives more levy, how would this improve negotiations with DHSC and produce a better outcome for Community Pharmacy?

A key theme in the proposals is to appropriately resource PSNC to improve negotiating outcomes and carry out its full range of functions for contractors. This was one of the highest priority recommendations identified in the Independent Review, recognising that the national negotiator was not sufficiently resourced to protect the value of the CPCF (£2.592bn) and grow additional funding for contractors. The vast majority of contractors' income is negotiated by PSNC, around £232,000 per annum for the average contractor.

Additional funding to PSNC would be invested in the following areas to give the sector the best possible chance of securing better outcomes in future:

- Introduce capacity and capability at PSNC to support the negotiating function, which is either missing or not at sufficient scale today - such as health economics, project management, analytical and insights capability, and broader strategic influencing, with the aim to create a more favourable negotiating environment.
- Working with external experts to develop and adopt a negotiation strategy to support delivery of the shared vision for the sector, focusing on tactical, political and influencing.
- Develop a bank of regular evidence and monitoring data to better support negotiating, implementation and evaluation of funding impacts and market trends – for example market data, pressures surveys, patient surveys, public opinion polling.
- Enhance the negotiating team by seeking to better define executive and non-executive (contractor) roles more clearly, be supported by access to training and enabled by the improvements listed above.

Through other aspects of the proposals to increase transparency and improve governance, contractors will be better enabled and informed to assess PSNC's performance against the sector vision, strategy and understand how their money is being spent.

Note: Further information and justification on how PSNC's negotiating capacity and strategy will be strengthened is included in the Case for Change and Explanatory Notes in the proposals document.

I own 10 pharmacies and would like to be able to bulk vote for all my branches?

The head offices of the largest 50 pharmacy organisations have now all been contacted. The smaller pharmacy organisations should have received both a postal pre-notice and a digital version of the prenotice via NHSmail i.e. in their shared premises mailbox at each pharmacy. If you have not received the voting pre-notice but think you should have or need your pharmacy data updated or have other questions about voting, please complete the following [webform](#).

More information about voting is available here <https://pharmacy-review.org/voting/>