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18th May 2022

For the attention of the pharmacy owner

Dear Pharmacy Contractor,

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Your vote is needed to shape the future of PSNC and LPCs

Important changes are being proposed for your Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) and for the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) the national pharmacy negotiator. These have been designed to strengthen these organisations so that the sector becomes better at negotiating, benefiting all contractors. **Your views are needed to proceed via a vote of all pharmacy contractors in England. This is a unique opportunity to shape the future of PSNC and the LPCs, and every vote is important.**

Voting will be easy and will open on **Friday 27th May 2022**. There are some very simple ways to find out all that you need to know and how to prepare to vote, outlined in this letter.

Contractors pay some £11.3m in levies every year to PSNC and the LPCs. As a community pharmacy owner in England, your interests are represented to Government, the NHS and local service commissioners by your local LPC (at local level) and by PSNC (nationally). The levy you pay is split between these two organisations, with some 70% of the average contractor levy going to the LPC, and 30% to PSNC.

We want to ensure you get best value from that levy

In 2020, the performance of LPCs and PSNC was reviewed independently for the first time ever – by Professor David Wright, who found a number of issues and things that could be done better, to make sure that you, as a contractor get more value from the levy you pay, and ultimately, better representation and support.

Proposals have been put forward to do this

Over the past two years we, as a group of contractors – together called the Review Steering Group – have been looking at the David Wright recommendations to work out a way forward that the whole sector – independent and multiple pharmacies – could agree on. **We have now set out our final plan: <https://pharmacy-review.org/contractor-proposals/>**

Please see over

Our proposals recommend:

- **Stronger governance of PSNC and the LPCs** We want contractors to have more say over what PSNC and the LPCs do, including through better transparency and key performance indicators being made available for contractors to see.
- **Better alignment of LPCs with the local NHS** We want to stop the duplication of efforts at a local level, make sure every contractor gets the same services and value from their LPC wherever they are in the country, and make sure all our LPCs are best lined up to influence emerging local NHS bodies.
- **Appropriate resourcing of PSNC and the LPCs** We want to adjust how the levy is split between LPCs and PSNC – with a 13% redirection of the total annual contractor levy towards PSNC. This will give PSNC the resource it desperately needs to improve its negotiating capacity and capability, to allow for better local and national contractor engagement, and to introduce more support services so that LPCs can streamline what they do to focus on the activities that are of most value to contractors.
- **Stronger collaboration between PSNC and the LPCs** We need our representatives to be working better together, aligned to one vision and strategy, and our proposals include plans to make this happen and to reduce the duplication of effort across PSNC and the LPCs. This will help to improve the credibility of the sector externally, strengthening our negotiating position.

All of this will, we believe, ensure PSNC and the LPCs are representing you in the strongest way possible. We now need contractors to vote on these proposals.

The ballot question will be: **Do you accept the proposals setting the direction for pharmacy representation?** The response options to this question will be 'yes' or 'no'. A positive vote from you will set a clear path for change for PSNC and the LPCs to respond to, remaining accountable to you as the contractors who fund them. A 'no' vote will mean no changes to either PSNC or LPCs, and as consequence we believe your representative organisations will continue to struggle to get better outcomes on your behalf.

This is a unique chance for all contractors to help shape LPCs and PSNC for the future : all contractors are being asked to vote. You can cast your vote online from 27th May.

The vote is being run by **Civica Election Services** (formerly Electoral Reform Services) who are managing and overseeing the vote and acting as Independent Scrutineer, to ensure the impartiality and integrity of the process.

What you should do upon receiving this notice

1. If you are not the pharmacy contractor (owner) or responsible person for voting on their behalf, please bring the contents of this communication urgently to the attention of the contractor.
2. **Read our full proposals at:** <https://pharmacy-review.org/contractor-proposals/> **You can also watch our two animations which are just three minutes long each at:** <https://pharmacy-review.org/animations/> **or scan the QR code to take you straight to the proposals.**
3. **Look out for voting instructions in your shared NHSmail email inbox, including the electronic voting notice with a unique link for your pharmacy, to be sent out from takepart@cesvotes.com on Friday 27th May 2022.**
4. **If you have a query or have not received this notice by email, as well as post, please contact us.** If you need to update your pharmacy data or have any other questions about voting, please visit <https://pharmacy-review.org/voting/> and complete the RSG vote query webform.



We hope you will agree that the future of the sector depends on us having strong negotiators and representatives, and that the time has come to make some positive changes to the ways in which they work.

James Wood FRPharmS

On behalf of the Review Steering Group

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