



Setting the Direction for Pharmacy Representation

Results of the National Ballot on the Future Direction of PSNC and LPCs

Review Steering Group



Recap of the decision process

- The Review Steering Group published proposals for the future of PSNC and LPCs on Friday 29th April 2022 with a pre-vote engagement period following
- The contractor vote on the proposals began on Friday 27th May 2022 and ended on Friday 17th June 2022 (3 week window)
- All contractors in England were asked in a single vote to approve (or not) the proposals for the future of local and national contractor representation and support
- The RSG did not ask contractors to choose between several options as it is crucial that the outcome is a clear decision to either proceed or not as there are many interdependencies across the system of contractor representation
- The ballot question was as follows: **Do you accept the proposals setting the direction for pharmacy representation? Yes/No**
- One vote was permitted per contract owned (i.e. one vote per ODS code), and all votes were equally weighted.



Voting thresholds

1. The result will be measured on **the percentage of all votes cast** (from a total of 11,132 eligible ODS codes as of March 2022, using NHS data)
2. A **two-thirds majority** of all those casting a vote is required to **approve the vote**
3. The target **voter turnout** will be **two-thirds** of the contractor base (n=7,418 ODS codes)

- This required a significant majority of contractors to vote, and a significant majority to vote in the same way, to approve the vote, meaning support was required from across the contractor base.
- The voting parameters were designed and shaped by the sector via the Review Steering Group and published in September 2021 as per its Terms of Reference
- The report of voting covers the outcomes of the ballot in relation to these parameters

Report of Voting

RESULT	Number of votes	% of valid votes
Yes	6,732	88.6%
No	869	11.4%

TURNOUT	
Number of ODS codes eligible to vote	11,132
Number of votes cast in the ballot	7,601
Votes cast in the ballot as a % of this eligible	68.3%

- The contractor vote was overseen by Civica Election Services (formerly Electoral Reform Services) who acted as the independent scrutineer and adjudicator.
- A copy of their report of voting will be made available when the results are released to the sector at 2pm on Wednesday 22nd June

What next

- Contractors have made an unequivocal statement via this vote that they support the proposed changes, and the RSG now invites PSNC and the LPCs to respond to that call
- It will be for contractors to collectively hold LPCs and PSNC to account as they shape the changes, and for contractors to decide on what happens in the future – the RSG has suggested a review in two years
- The RSG has now completed its work

What next - PSNC

- PSNC Members will consider the vote outcome and its next steps at the July PSNC Meeting with a view to updating contractors after that meeting, and to putting together a more detailed action plan and timelines for the sector over the summer
- Although PSNC will not receive any extra proportion of levy funds until 2023/24, some of the work, such as developing a new vision for the sector and supporting LPCs through the next election cycle and to become ready for facing into ICS is both critical and urgent, and this will be prioritised



What next - LPCs

- Support will be provided to LPCs in how to think about the impact and plan their own responses. LPCs will need to consider locally how they can meet increasing funding to PSNC, which may include how best to organise balancing efficiencies with the new NHS landscape, given LPCs will be recognised by NHS ICBs in future