

News Release

Contractors overwhelmingly vote in support of RSG Proposals on the future direction for PSNC and LPCs

The Review Steering Group (RSG) has today announced the results of the contractor vote on its proposals for the future of PSNC and the LPCs.

The RSG is pleased to report that the thresholds it had set for the vote have been met, as follows:

- **Contractors representing a total of 7601 ODS Codes voted (68.3% of pharmacies in England)**
- **Of those contractors, a total of 6732 votes were in favour of the proposals (88.6% of votes cast)**

The ballot question was: **Do you accept the proposals setting the direction for pharmacy representation?**

The RSG had set the following thresholds for the vote:

- 1) The result will be measured on the percentage of all votes cast from a total of the 11,132 eligible ODS codes (as of NHS data at) March 2022
- 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** (n= 7,418 ODS) of the contractor base

The contractor vote was overseen by Civica Election Services (formerly Electoral Reform Services) who acted as the independent scrutineer and adjudicator. Their report on the outcome of the vote can be read [here](#).

The wider contractor network has now 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 of progress in two years, and once again, contractors will need to lead that process.

The RSG said:

“Thank you to all contractors who spared the time to engage with this work, to shape and then to read our final proposals, and to vote on them. As contractors ourselves this has been challenging work, not least given some of the differences in opinion between various parts of the sector, but as the result of this vote shows: the sector is united in the way forward and wants to see positive changes to both local and national representation.

We now look to PSNC and the LPCs to start making those changes – talking and listening to all contractors as they do. Whilst we understand that not everything will be possible to implement overnight, this is important work, and contractors will need to be assured that it will happen in good time, and that this is

just the beginning of a process of ongoing improvement and review. In the long term, we hope our work will have contributed to helping the sector to come together to tackle the very great challenge of persuading the NHS and Government that we are a united, forward-looking sector, with much to offer, and deserving of further investment and support.”

Background Information about the RSG

The RSG was [established](#) as a group of contractors in November 2020, following discussions between PSNC and the LPCs on how the findings of the independent Wright Review into both organisations should be taken forward, and how this could be funded. Contractor organisations and representatives (CCA and AIM, and the independent and NPA representatives on PSNC) were asked, in accordance with the RSG [Terms of Reference](#), to [nominate](#) contractors to sit on the RSG.

The RSG was tasked with exploring the issues in the Wright Review and talking to the wider sector to propose a way forward. The Group was not a decision-making body and it was asked to come up with a mechanism to gain wider contractor approval for any proposals it put forward – this was the contractor vote. The RSG set out its plans for the vote, following wider discussions with the sector, in autumn 2021 and further information available [here](#).

After 15 months of work funded jointly by PSNC and the LPCs, including talking with the sector at several rounds of contractor engagement events, the RSG set out its final proposals in April 2022. The vote on these proposals began on Friday 27th May 2022 and ended on Friday 17th June 2022.

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For further information or any queries please contact: review@pharmacy-review.org