



E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Clare Morrison  
Ross.Barrow@rpharms.com

Our Reference: 202200321545

Your Reference: Pharmacy workforce pressures and closures

7 November 2022

Dear Clare Morrison,

Thank you for the email of 20 September addressed to me in my capacity as a member of the Scottish Parliament, regarding current issues facing the community pharmacy network.

Firstly, let me assure you that I take the concerns that raised very seriously. I welcome your input in helping others understand the multifactorial issues which are impacting on pharmacy closures and workforce pressures. As you have highlighted, the causes are related to workforce, workplace, and external financial issues, and indeed there is no simple solution to solve these issues. I believe it is worth highlighting that compared with other parts of the UK, our community pharmacy contract is one which continues to invest in patient services and recognises the value and expertise which Pharmacists and the support team bring to the NHS and importantly their patients.

Your recommendation to encourage all those involved in pharmacy, including contractors, employees and patients to act with professionalism and respect, and to consider prioritisation of core pharmacy services during this coming winter, echo our aims for NHS pharmaceutical care in Scotland. It is important that all of our stakeholders work collaboratively to address the pressures being experienced and importantly put patients first.

I know that you will have an opportunity to discuss these points with the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer and her team in the weeks ahead and that the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) have an important role in the work of the national Pharmacy Workforce Forum.

Finally, I would like to again reiterate the importance the Scottish Government places on the well-being of our workforce. As you know to support pharmacists, along with the wider health and care sector,

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there are a range of resources available through the NHS Scotland National Wellbeing Hub ([www.wellbeinghub.scot](http://www.wellbeinghub.scot)). The National Wellbeing Hub is for all members of the pharmacy team, working in all settings and we encourage everyone to make use of this resource as necessary, and for employers to support their teams in its use. I welcome the continued support from RPS in promoting this resource to its members.

Yours sincerely,



**HUMZA YOUSAF**

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