



Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Via email

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Dear Matt Hancock and Rishi Sunak,

Financial pressures facing Community Pharmacies

The Kent Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) are writing in support of the letter sent to you from the Chair of the All-Party Pharmacy Group, Jackie-Doyle Price MP, on 20th May 2021 which calls for fairer funding for the pharmacy sector. In particular, we support the write-off of the advance payments of £370m to the sector, which if made to be re-paid could see the closure of some local providers or reduction in service levels.

Community pharmacies play a vital role in the provision of primary care services to local people, yet do not seem to be recognised for this in terms of their funding. All too often over the last year, our Committee has heard of the difficulty for some residents in accessing medical advice and support. To insist upon clawing back the emergency funding of £370m to pharmacists would seem counterintuitive, as it could lead to reduced services or closures that would in turn increase demand upon GPs and other NHS services.

My Committee would urge you to make the right decision, as soon as possible, to give local pharmacies the certainty they need and gratitude they so rightly deserve.

Kind regards

Paul Bartlett
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council