



HM Treasury

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Paul Bartlett
Chair, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Kent County Council
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

1 July 2021

Dear Paul Bartlett,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 June regarding support for pharmacies. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked me to write to you directly.

The Government recognises that community pharmacies are providing a vital frontline service to patients during the pandemic. As such, they have put in place a comprehensive package of support. The Government has provided extra funding for Bank Holiday openings, a new medicines delivery service for shielding patients and a contribution to social distancing measures for every pharmacy. They have also provided non-monetary support including the removal of some administrative tasks, flexibility in opening hours, and the delayed introduction of new services.

Between April and July 2020, a total of £370 million in increased advance payments were made to support community pharmacies with cash-flow pressures due to COVID-19. The Government has also put forward firm proposals for additional funding to meet extra costs incurred by pharmacies during the pandemic, and discussions between the Department of Health and Social Care and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee are ongoing.

Crucially, most community pharmacies can also benefit from the unprecedented financial package that has been provided to support all businesses during the pandemic, including tax deferrals and cash grants. The Government estimates community pharmacies have had access to some £82 million in grants.

The Government is grateful for the important contribution made by community pharmacy teams and thanks you for raising these important issues.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions about this reply, please email public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk quoting reference POA2021/17137.

Yours sincerely,

V Gallagher
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