



Community
Pharmacy
North
Yorkshire

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Minister confirms proposed funding cuts will not be implemented from October

The proposed £170 million community pharmacy funding cut will not be implemented this October, pharmacy minister David Mowat has announced.

It had been expected that the cut would be implemented through changes in the October Drug Tariff, but the minister said in a recorded statement to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Annual Conference this morning that "we are not now going to be in a position to do that".

Referring to the consultation on the proposals and policies set out by the Government in its letter of December 17th 2015, Mr Mowat said: "I think it is right that we spend the time, particularly me as an incoming minister, to make sure that we are making the correct decision and that what we do is going to be right for you, is going to be right for the NHS and right for the public more generally."

No further detail was given and Mr Mowat said: "That is all I can say at the moment but clearly we want not to be implementing the change from October which was our original target."

The minister also commented on the Community Pharmacy Forward View and supported a greater role for community pharmacy, saying: "Your profession I think rightly recognises that it needs to go further, away from just doing dispensing and into the services area, and there is a big contribution that you can make, particularly in areas such as long term conditions."

Mr Mowat said he looked forward to working with community pharmacy, adding: "There is absolutely no question that whatever decisions are made in the weeks and months ahead that you have got a major contribution to make to the health service and to primary care in particular." And he said there would be progress on the decriminalisation of dispensing errors in the short term.

The comments follow Mr Mowat's appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health in July, as well as months of campaigning by community pharmacy against the proposed funding cut and other changes.

CPNY Chief Executive Officer Jack Davies said: "This is testament to all the hard work and lobbying that Community Pharmacies have undertaken with their MPs over recent months. As a result of this, ministers are listening to community pharmacy and their patients' concerns and are now aware of the vital role they play within the social fabric of communities. I am sure that North Yorkshire health commissioners will have noted Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health comments regarding the big contribution that community pharmacies can make, particularly in areas such as long term conditions. I am hopeful they will now wish to hold further discussions with us to implement more local services, leading to early interventions by community pharmacy which will contribute to considerable savings in the NHS in the long term."

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Editor Notes