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Dear

I am writing to you to express my concerns with regard to the OFT report on control of entry of Pharmacies across the UK.

The control of entry regulations were introduced in 1987 to.

- (a) secure a rational distribution of pharmacies throughout local communities
- (b) ensure a ready & easy access to pharmacy services
- (c) deal with the counter productive clustering of pharmacies around G.P. surgeries & shopping centres attracting a high customer flow - an issue that is as relevant today as it was then.

In the past 15 years the system has worked well & has provided pharmacists with a platform of stability & confidence to develop a range of additional services & to invest in their premises.

If the OFT recommendations are implemented this would all be lost.

Community Pharmacies are by nature retail outlets but 80 to 90% of their business is NHS. & so many of

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of the remarks made in the OFT report are without foundation & irrelevant.

liberalisation of the rules will not increase patient choice it will just change the distribution of pharmacies. Pharmacies will gradually become polarised around areas in health centres & large supermarkets. These are locations where commercial aspirations could be greater than what is in the best interests of the patient & remember the patient is the most important part of the whole argument.

I hope you will consider these points & if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address, or telephone numbers.

Colin Lowe
