



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Chemists
W.Davidson & Sons Ltd
Ballater



By Appointment to
HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother
Chemists
W.Davidson & Sons Ltd
Ballater



By Appointment to
HRH The Prince of Wales
Chemists
W.Davidson & Sons Ltd
Ballater



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Dear

Decision time for NHS Patients.

The OFT suggests the control of entry regulations for community pharmacy be swept aside. It is an advisory body, and ultimately the final decision lies with the Scottish Executive.

I doubt if many people have really thought through the implications of such a move... I include the Asdas and Superdrugs of this world amongst them.

I can suggest a real scenario... G.P's will own and open Pharmacies in or beside their surgeries. Any community pharmacy nearby will have to close down immediately. The pace of the openings quickens, the pace of pharmacy closure quickens..... Superstores and large multiples will no longer be receiving prescriptions. What then?????

The large superstores will survive without NHS dispensing, they can sell bananas and baked beans, but small independent groups who have invested large amounts of money in drugs, computers and modernised premises etc., to provide a service to the patients and the NHS will be made bankrupt.

I assure you this will be the outcome. If patients have any doubts look at a snippet from GP-UK.

“-should look carefully at whether they can house, or much better own an on site pharmacy (this is much better than having a multiple on site paying rent)”

“this is very profitable”

“WIN, WIN, WIN apart from the high street pharmacy (this statement would equally apply to any pharmacy rural or urban)

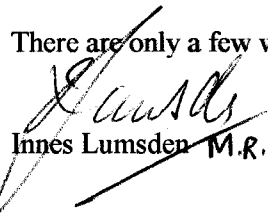
“The Independents should look carefully at the future and whether they should get into bed with their local GP's before someone else does...” (Does this mean being employed by a practice after you have been made bankrupt?)

So the prescriber becomes the supplier. Community pharmacy is wiped out. No more home deliveries to the infirm and elderly, no more deliveries into the rural areas, no more deliveries to nursing homes and residential homes etc.

The patients have no choice, competition has gone and innovation disappears.

IS THIS REALLY WHAT THE OFT IS SUGGESTING? I doubt it.

There are only a few weeks to go before the final decision is made.


Innes Lumsden M.R.Pharm.S