

# Glovers Integrated Healthcare

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Ronnie Fraser  
Primary Care Division  
Scottish Executive  
St Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

29 February 2003

Dear Mr Fraser,

I am writing to you to comment on the OFT report on the control of entry regulations for Community pharmacies.

The report is fundamentally flawed in that the OFT has only looked at the issue with a view to reducing the price of OTC medicines. This totally ignores the other services provided by community pharmacists, for the NHS, which are only made viable through the controlled entry system. Removal of the controlled entry system would have very detrimental consequences for the general public.

Community pharmacies play an essential role in deprived areas and are often the key retail unit in secondary shopping areas. These are vital to people who do not own cars and for whom out of town shopping is difficult.

Even more important is that the proposed plan for pharmacy – “A spoonful of sugar” – will not be deliverable if the community pharmacy network is disrupted.

Finally, the services offered to drug abusers are almost exclusively made by pharmacies in the high street, and not by supermarket pharmacies.

If the Executive is serious about promoting public health they really must take the wider view and insist that the present control of entry regulations represents the best way of providing a comprehensive pharmaceutical service to the public.

Yours sincerely,



Christine Glover  
Immediate Past President, RPSGB

Mrs Christine Glover, BSc, FRPharmS, MIPharmM.