

**Fraser R (Ronnie)**

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**From:** John Moran [johnmoran@blueyonder.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 24 February 2003 22:40  
**To:** pharmacy.report@scotland.gsi.gov.uk  
**Subject:** OFT Pharmacy Report on Control of Entry

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To Ronnie Fraser  
Scottish Executive  
Primary care division

I am writing regarding the OFT's extremely flawed report recommending that the current Control of Entry regulations be removed.  
This is the report that attempts to crucify small Independent Pharmacies and hand the Pharmacy sector to the large Supermarkets and Retail outlets on a plate.  
This could have a devastating impact on the provision of community healthcare services through Pharmacy and is completely against the public's best interests.  
If the regulations go, local communities generally will suffer.  
Community Pharmacies are, at present, at the very heart of local healthcare providing healthcare services and advice to their patients where they live.  
I personally each day collect prescriptions from local Surgeries and deliver them to elderly, infirm and housebound patients and it is these people along with nursing mothers with young children, families on low income and those who live in disadvantaged communities that will suffer the most as these are often the least able to access services outwith their community.  
The OFT themselves stated that the provision of healthcare was not a 'primary leader' in the writing of the report which makes it clearly at odds with the Department of Health's pharmacy strategy, 'Pharmacy in the Future'.  
They have only concentrated on competition issues treating us as shopkeepers who supply consumers rather than healthcare professionals who serve patients.  
They have ignored the work done by us for the NHS typically in excess of 80% of turnover.  
Health and social service provision, including NHS pharmaceutical services, has to be structured to ensure the best use is made of limited resources and that care is available to those in need, at a time and place of their choosing not driven by commercial gain as would happen if the current control of entry was abolished.  
Deregulation will destroy the platform from which the Scottish Executive intends to launch a wide range of enhanced pharmacy services as detailed in 'The Right Medicine'.  
Deregulation will also decimate past investments and hamper any future investments of Independent Pharmacists in their Pharmacies which may hinder or prevent them from providing their current 1<sup>st</sup> class community healthcare services.  
A vastly reduced value and an inability to sell on their business when retiring is a kick in the teeth for some Pharmacists who have spent many years serving their local communities.  
I urge you to do whatever is in your power to convince the Government to reject the OFT recommendations.

Yours sincerely, John Moran MRPharmS

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