



The Spa Pharmacy
The Square
Strathpeffer
IV14 9DW
Phone/Fax : 01997 421214

Vat reg. No.: 774 2441 52

Ms. Anne MacLeod
Primary Care Division
Scottish Executive Health Department
IER St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

24 February 2003

Dear Ms. MacLeod

Re: Office of Fair Trading (OFT) Pharmacy Report

I am writing to you to express my concern over the findings of the OFT report into the control of entry regulations relating to the siting of Pharmacy premises.

I am the community pharmacist in the Victorian Spa village of Strathpeffer, Ross-Shire where there has been a pharmacy for over 120 years. In this rural setting I also provide health care to a widely scattered population living as far as 30 miles away. I am often their main contact with "civilisation". The majority of my customers are either elderly or receiving benefits of one kind or another. I additionally provide a service to a "travelling" family with special health care needs. The dispensing of NHS prescriptions comprises over 90% of my business.

The abolition of control of entry and the resulting free-for-all will reduce the viability of my business to such an extent that I will not be able to function as a community health care provider in Strathpeffer or to the people living in the more remote areas where access to a "local" supermarket and its pharmacy is not a real option. Accordingly, rather than benefit from opening up the "market", the community I serve will be positively harmed by the OFT's proposed changes to the current regulations.

I would be grateful if you could note my concerns, which will undoubtedly be shared by other rural pharmacists, in the up-coming consultations.

Yours faithfully,

David Raeburn, MRPharmS