



THE INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL Ltd.

General Secretary: Nicholas L. Wood, B.Pharm., F.R.Pharm.S., M.I.Pharm.M.

10 FEB 2003

Chief Pharmaceutical Officer,
Scottish Office Department of Health
St Andrew's House,
Regent Road,
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear Bill,

7th February, 2003.

**Office of Fair Trading Report into the Control of Entry Regulations for
community pharmacies.**

I understand from reports in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* and elsewhere, that there is a 90-day consultation period before a decision is taken on the recommendation in the above report.

The Council of the Institute of Pharmacy Management International has issued the attached statement with their views on the issue. I hope these can be taken into consideration during the consultation.

Copies of this statement will be sent to the Chief Pharmacist in England and the Chief Pharmaceutical Advisor in Wales, as well as being made available to the pharmaceutical press and the All Party Parliamentary Pharmacy Group.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas L. Wood
General Secretary.



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Council statement.

The Office of Fair Trading Examination of Retail Pharmacy Services.

At its meeting held on 2nd February 2003, the Council of the Institute of Pharmacy Management International considered the recommendation from the Office of Fair Trading, that the control of entry regulations for new pharmacies should be abolished.

The Institute's Council takes the view that community pharmacies should be distributed in such a way that best serves the interests of patients. It believes that any method used to ensure that consumers have convenient access to the services of community pharmacies should be driven primarily by the public's health needs and the requirement for community pharmacy to deliver its part of the NHS Plan.

From a management viewpoint, the Council believes that current uncertainty will cause instability in the market for pharmacies and difficulties for companies and individuals currently contemplating the sale or purchase of a pharmacy. Furthermore this instability will also cause uncertainty amongst those responsible for the planning and management of new pharmaceutical services within existing pharmacies. Additionally there could be an impact on quality of services if the instability and difficulties resulted in failure to invest in improvements to premises.

For these reasons the Council of the Institute believes that whatever decision is taken on the OFT recommendation, it should be taken swiftly, and should be permanent and robust. Those responsible for the management of pharmaceutical services need to know where they stand in relation to the control of entry regulations and a prolonged period of doubt would be unhelpful and damaging. The Council of the Institute therefore urges the Government and the Scottish and Welsh Executives to make clear their decisions with regard to the OFT report as soon as possible after the 90 day consultation period.

7th February 2003