

KITCHENERS DELICATESSEN

PURVEYORS ♦ OF ♦ INTERNATIONAL ♦ FINE ♦ FOODS

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

Dear Mr Fraser

I run a small business in the High Street of Portobello in Edinburgh. It has come to my attention recently through the media and other sources that changes are afoot in relation to local pharmacies. It would appear that it may soon be legislated for the likes of supermarkets etc., to dispense prescription drugs.

This worries me on several points, to name but a few:

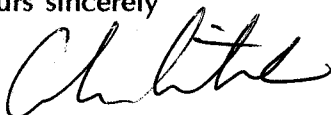
- 1/ I have use of a pharmacy nearby to where I live and work as I have a spinal condition that makes it difficult for me to get around, and travelling by car or bus to a supermarket is out of the question.
- 2/ After 12 years in business in a local community I think I am an authority on the need for diverse and key businesses together in an area, to sustain each other by our very presence.
- 3/ I have built up a rapport over the past few years with my local pharmacy and a level of trust and service that works both ways. The knowledge of myself and any ailments over the years by my local pharmacist has proved invaluable at times.

It goes without saying that a community's heart is its local businesses. Have we not seen enough of "out-of-town" development over the years, and should we not be encouraging local shops to be successful and maintain a much needed presence in the high street.

If the independents, and even the likes of Boots, were to disappear you would leave a gap in the service much wider than what would be provided in total elsewhere.

I urge you to seriously reconsider any proposal that would ultimately undermine a perfectly good service. As the saying goes, "if it's not broken, don't fix it."

Yours sincerely



Graham Kitchener