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12th Feb 2003

Ronnie Fraser
Scottish Executive, Primary Care Division
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Copy:

Mike Watson MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Cathcart

Dear Mr. Fraser

With reference to the report into pharmacy, "The Control of Entry Regulations and Retail Pharmacy Services in the U.K." I find it unbelievable that anybody, other than supermarkets etc., could believe that a free market in pharmacy services will lead to a reduction in the price of over-the-counter medicines and improved services.

We are served in our community by two very well established local chemists. The one that my family has used for over thirty years is:

Elizabeth F. Ure, 213/215 Clarkston Road, Glasgow G44 3DS

During that period we have seen the chemist shop expand considerably in size and the range of medical advice and services available has also expanded considerably. Mrs. Roddick and her staff are offering an excellent service to our community and clearly are working in close harmony with our local doctors. Mrs. Roddick has devoted her life to supporting local medical issues. She recently supported an evening with the local Cathcart M.E. group after completing her normal hectic day's work.

How could we possibly buy our medical supplies from a supermarket? What large business could possibly work in such complete harmony for the benefit of the local community? We ask you to have this matter investigated to protect our local chemists to enable them to continue their work for our benefit. There is far more to medical matters than discounts. We are not buying bread and milk!!!

Yours sincerely



Tony Coleman