

Mr Robert Packwood  
The Scottish Government  
Health Protection Division  
Area 3E  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Street  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

18 June 2019

Dear Mr Packwood

## **GPhC response to a consultation on the new National Public Health Body 'Public Health Scotland'**

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacy premises in Great Britain. Our role is to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public who use pharmaceutical services in Scotland, England and Wales.

We have a statutory role in relation to 'system' regulation (as we regulate registered pharmacies) as well as 'professional' regulation of individual pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Our main work includes:

- setting standards for the education and training of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy support staff, and approving and accrediting their qualifications and training
- maintaining a register of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies
- setting the standards that pharmacy professionals have to meet throughout their careers
- investigating concerns that pharmacy professionals are not meeting our standards, and taking action to restrict their ability to practise when this is necessary to protect patients and the public or to uphold public confidence in pharmacy
- setting standards for registered pharmacies which require them to provide a safe and effective service to patients
- inspecting registered pharmacies to check if they are meeting our standards

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the new National Public Health Body 'Public Health Scotland' consultation on developing a new model and arrangements for public health in Scotland. Whilst all the proposals are of interest to us, we have limited our response to areas where we feel our work is directly relevant to the proposed changes.

We are supportive of the setting up of Public Health Scotland which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Scotland and believe that pharmacy can play a wider role in improving public health throughout Scotland.

We are committed to ensure we regulate in a way that takes account of ongoing developments in public health in Scotland, which focuses on person centred care.

Our standards for pharmacy professionals, sets out our approach to promoting person-centred professionalism, where every person must be treated as an individual. Pharmacy professionals have an important role in involving, supporting and enabling people to make decisions about their health, safety and wellbeing. We believe it is the attitudes and behaviours of pharmacy professionals in their day-to-day work which make the most significant contributions to the quality of care, of which patient outcomes are a vital part.

We believe our approach aligns with the Scottish Government's new arrangements to ensure the effective delivery of improved health and wellbeing outcomes for the population of Scotland in setting up 'Public Health Scotland'.

We expect pharmacy professionals to work in partnership with the patient and other healthcare professionals and teams. This may also include carers, relatives and professionals in other settings – such as social workers and public health officials. They must use their professional judgement, so they deliver safe and effective care, which balances the needs of individuals with the needs of society as a whole.

We support your aim to work with relevant partners across the healthcare system, which promotes transparency and collaboration. Better outcomes are delivered for communities by promoting a collaborative approach to planning and delivery based on public needs. We have memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with the NHS Health Boards in Scotland which enables continuous quality improvement in pharmacy services and facilitates effective co-operation and collaboration between us.

We are happy to continue to contribute to future discussions on how we can all play our part in improving the health and wellbeing of patients and the public in Scotland.

If you would like to discuss the points raised in this response, or any other aspects of the GPhC's work, please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Voce', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Mark Voce**  
**Director of Education and Standards**