



**CONSULTATION ON DRAFT WHISTLEBLOWING STANDARDS FOR THE NHS IN
SCOTLAND: PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURE**

SUBMISSION FROM THE GENERAL PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL

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 England, Scotland 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 consultation on the draft Whistleblowing Standards for the NHS in Scotland. We have reviewed the standards and support the outcomes they are trying to achieve. However, we do not have any specific comments to make under the consultation questions but would like to raise a point about the relationship between the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer (INWO) and health professional regulators like ourselves.

We believe that this is an important relationship and propose that the INWO should have the power to share proportionate information with the health professional regulators. The relationship between the INWO and health professional regulators should complement and support the strong focus on openness, honesty and candour in our current work. This is an area that that we would be keen to explore further with relevant stakeholders in terms of both our systems and professional regulation work. This is to help ensure that the INWO effectively links to all organisations that have a role to play in considering concerns about the safe and effective provision of healthcare services in Scotland.

If you would like to discuss our response further 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 that reads "Annette Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end of the name.

Annette Ashley

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