

Press Release



29 April 2003

OFT CAMPAIGN – NPA URGES MEMBERS TO KEEP UP THE PRESSURE

Newly elected Chairman, Hemant Patel, has issued a call to action to all members asking them to maintain the pressure on parliamentarians about the outcome of the OFT Report on Control of Entry.

At its April meeting the Board of Management considered progress on the lobbying campaign. Board Members agreed that, through the hard work and dedication of community pharmacists there had been a groundswell of opinion in support of local pharmacies. However, in publishing its statement about the need for a balanced package of measures for planning pharmacy contracts, the Government had sought to take the heat out of the situation so as to allow the deregulation agenda to be reconsidered without the public pressure. It was vital, Board members considered, that community pharmacists and the public were made aware that the issue had not been resolved. Ministers needed to realise that any solutions other than an enhancement of existing regulations, which already served local communities well, would be unacceptable to the public and to community pharmacists.

The Chairman urged NPA members to write again to their MPs asking them to seek assurance from Ministers that, to reflect the opinion of their constituents, there would not be substantial changes to the existing Control of Entry Regulations.

Notes to editors

For more information, please contact the NPA Press Office on: 01727 85 86 87, ext. 3227, 3265 or 3311.