



Home Office

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister for Crime Prevention

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Professor Les Iversen
Chair, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs
c/o 1st Floor (SW)
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
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4th March 2015

Dear Professor Iversen,

Re: Allied Health Practitioners Independent Prescribing

I am grateful for the Advisory Council's advice on independent prescribing of a limited number of controlled drugs by physiotherapists and chiropodists following a recommendation by the Commission on Human Medicines and agreement by Department of Health Ministers.

I would like to thank the Advisory Council, especially its Technical Committee, for its consideration.

I am sorry that it has taken this long to respond to the advice. My officials inform me that it has been necessary to secure the agreement of the Department of Health and health departments in Wales and Scotland so that measures required to address the concerns raised by the Advisory Council can be implemented nationally to ensure consistency. My officials also inform me that they have kept the Advisory Council up to date over the period of the considerations.

I have now received correspondence from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Dr Daniel Poulter, a copy of which is enclosed, which provides assurances, agreed with Wales and Scotland, in respect of the Advisory Council's concerns. I am satisfied that the assurances provided address the concerns highlighted by the Advisory Council and therefore accept your recommendations.

I am informed that changes to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to include physiotherapists and chiropodists in the list of independent prescribers have already been implemented. I have asked my officials to progress work on the necessary

legislative instrument with the view to implementing the changes at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Featherstone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Hon Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister of State

Enc: Letter from Dr Daniel Poulter dated 3 February 2015