Pharmacy Name and address

**DATE**

**Ref: Community Pharmacy Pressures and Request for Urgent Support**

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_MP,

I am writing to you today as a constituent to urge you to lend support to your local pharmacies. Having gone above and beyond during the pandemic to ensure patients could access vital healthcare, Community Pharmacies across Greater Manchester are now facing a range of significant operational, financial and wellbeing challenges due to the unprecedented pressures endured over the last 2-3 years.

As a result of funding cuts in 2015 and real term inflation in the years that followed, many pharmacies are now dispensing at a loss and facing a serious cashflow crisis which if not addressed, will rapidly lead towards many permanent closures. Evidence of this can already be observed across Greater Manchester. Since 2020 our pharmacy network has reduced from 619 pharmacies to 585. This is deeply concerning and will put medicine supply at risk – with serious consequences for the millions of people who rely on dispensed prescriptions every year. This trend has been further aggravated by the cost of living crisis, with reports of pharmacy owners being left unable to afford the increasing cost of their energy bills.

Since the pandemic the workload for pharmacy teams has increased exponentially. Staff shortages, increase waiting times and frustration has led to a significant rise in the level of abuse faced by staff in pharmacies.

*Pharmacist to add stories of the own experiences and challenges being faced in relation to abuse by patients, impact on mental health, financial difficulties etc..*

Not only are the pressures described above having a detrimental effect on the mental health of pharmacy staff, on an even more serious note, they are also leading to a serious degradation of our service to patients.

For more information on the current challenges, please read the PSNC’s December 2022 Briefing relating the [critical pressures now faced by Community pharmacy](https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PSNC-Briefing-Community-Pharmacy-Patient-Services-Under-Critical-Pressure-December-2022.pdf) and the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) manifesto published this month detailing the [future of pharmacy and need for urgent action](https://www.pharmacyappg.co.uk/news/all-party-pharmacy-group-publishes-new-the-future-of-pharmacy-manifesto-report-23-january-2023).

**The most crucial factor exacerbating all other issues is the lack of funding for the sector. This needs to be urgently addressed.** As my local MP, I urge you to advocate on behalf of pharmacy teams in your constituency and write to Secretary of State for Health, Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP to raise these concerns as a matter of great urgency.

Your support will ensure the future sustainability of our pharmacy network, enable us to continue to play a vital role in helping our community recover from the pandemic and ease pressure on other areas of the NHS.

Yours sincerely,

Name