



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home
Department
Home Office

Via email only

Health and Sport Committee
T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5210
Calls via RNID Typetalk: 18001 0131 348 5224

Email: healthandsport@parliament.scot

6 February 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

Supply and Demand for Medicines in Scotland: Licencing of medicines in care homes

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry into the supply and demand for medicines in Scotland, looking at the clinical and cost effectiveness of the system from purchasing to consumption.

One of the written submissions the Committee has received (from the [University of Edinburgh Primary Palliative Care Research Group](#)) has commented extensively on the use of medicines within care home settings. One feature they note is care homes are required to hold a Home Office licence to keep medicines as "stock", whereas other organisations such as hospices do not.

The Committee would like to understand why this is the case and requests details of the purpose of this policy, as well as whether there are any plans to review this in the future.

On behalf of the Committee I would appreciate a response by the 26 February 2020 and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Macdonald
Convener, Health and Sport Committee