

**EXAMPLES OF ENFORCEMENT CASES DEALT WITH BY PROSECUTION/STATUTORY
OR PROFESSIONAL BODY BETWEEN 2005 AND 2011**

**PHARMACEUTICAL ADVICE AND SERVICES
MEDICINES REGULATORY GROUP**

YEAR OF DISPOSAL	SUMMARY
2012	<p>On Tuesday 7th February 2012, two brothers (46) and (50) from Lurgan, County Armagh, were convicted at Craigavon Magistrates' Court for conducting an illegal import and export veterinary medicines supply network operating in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. They were each fined £750.00 plus court costs, having pleaded guilty to charges of unlawfully importing, possessing and exporting unauthorised veterinary medicines.</p> <p>The convictions were the result of a multi-agency investigation in May 2011, involving the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) Medicines Regulatory Group, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the PSNI and regulatory counterparts from ROI.</p> <p>A significant quantity of unauthorised veterinary medicines, including antibiotics and steroids primarily intended for the greyhound and equine market, together with a large amount of cash in Sterling and Euros, was recovered following searches of residential properties in the Lurgan area.</p> <p>During a follow up investigation carried out by the DHSSPS Medicines Regulatory Group, it was established that the brothers had sourced and imported the illegal medicines from Australia and were supplying them throughout the Republic.</p>

2012	<p>Following a joint investigation with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, a Londonderry GP was convicted at Londonderry Magistrates Court on 19th January 2012, for two offences of failing to make entries in a Controlled Drugs Register, in contravention of Regulation 19(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations(NI) 2002, contrary to 18(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The GP was fined £500.00 and will be the subject of further investigation by the General Medical Council (GMC).</p>
2011	<p>On 13th December 2011 a 31-year-old Carrickfergus man was convicted at Belfast Magistrates Court for illegally importing the prescription only medicine and Class C controlled drug, diazepam, without a licence. He received 12 months probation, plus court costs, having pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawfully importing 600 diazepam tablets from Pakistan. In March 2011, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) intercepted the diazepam tablets destined for a Carrickfergus address. During a follow up investigation carried out by DHSSPS Medicines Regulatory Group officers, it was established that the medicines had sourced illegally via the internet.</p>
2011	<p>Following investigation by Medicines Regulatory Group, a 47-year-old Glengormley man, was convicted at Belfast Magistrates Court on 6th December 2011. In March 2011, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) intercepted 1600 erectile dysfunction tablets destined for a residential Glengormley address. During a follow up search by DHSSPS Medicines Regulatory Group officers, a further 4,500 similar tablets were found and it was established that the man had been sourcing and dealing in the illegal unlicensed erectile dysfunction medicines via the internet. The man, from Sherwood Avenue, Glengormley was fined £300.00 plus court costs, having pleaded guilty to charges of importing, placing on the market and supplying illegal prescription only medicinal products without a licence or marketing authorisation.</p>
2011	<p>Following investigation by the Medicines Regulatory Group, the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland convened on 20th June, 17th August and 30th August 2011, for the purpose of making Inquiry into alleged misconduct by a pharmacist working in Belfast and County Down, who on various dates on and between 10th July 2009 and 22nd March 2010 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst working as a pharmacist, procured through pharmacy premises and

	<p>misused a pharmacy medicine [P] namely Terpin and Codeine Linctus, in a manner and for a purpose that was an abuse of his position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concealed his misuse of the said medicinal product from the relevant authorities, in circumstances where disclosure was required and ought to have been made by him. • Failed to comply with the principles and associated standards of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics. • Breached undertakings made to the Pharmaceutical Society of NI <p>Subject to the provisions of the Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 the Statutory Committee concluded that he was guilty of misconduct and directed that he be removed from the register of Pharmaceutical Chemists in Northern Ireland.</p>
2011	<p>On 9th August 2011 the owner of a Co. Armagh convenience store, was prosecuted at Armagh Magistrates Court for exposing for sale by retail a 'P' (Pharmacy) medicine namely co-codamol. The owner of the store was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment suspended for 2 years and £250 fine.</p>
2011	<p>Following investigation by the Medicines Regulatory Group, the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland convened on 27th January 2011, for the purpose of making Inquiry into alleged misconduct by a Pharmacist working in County Londonderry, who had dispensed Prescription Only Medicines on five occasions without the necessary prescriptions on various dates between February 2009 and April 2009, in contravention of Section 58 of the Medicines Act 1968. There was a failure to comply with the current legislation and the principles and associated obligations of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics. The Pharmacist was found guilty of misconduct.</p>
2011	<p>During a protracted joint investigation with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, 130000 so called "legal high" tablets were recovered in Co Antrim. The drugs, subsequently classified as Class C under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 with an approximate street value of £500000, were destroyed by the DHSSPS Medicines Regulatory Group</p>
2011	<p>Following investigation by the DHSSPS Medicines Regulatory Group, a Hearing of the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) considered the circumstances surrounding a pharmacist who supplied Prescription Only Medicines to a Nursing Home without necessary prescriptions over a period of approximately 2 years. The PSNI Statutory Committee found the pharmacist guilty</p>

	of misconduct and she was struck off the PSNI register. The pharmacist will not be considered for restoration to the Register for a minimum period of three years.
2010	A south Armagh GP was convicted at Newry Magistrates Court in December 2009 for theft and possession of class A drugs. Legal proceedings were taken by the Department's Medicines Regulatory Group with regard to the doctor, who pleaded guilty to two counts of the theft of diamorphine and cyclimorph from a Crossmaglen surgery and two counts of possessing the class A controlled drugs. The GP received a six-month sentence suspended for 18 months on the possession offences to run concurrently to a three-month sentence suspended for 18 months for the theft charges. Subsequently in June 2010, the General Medical Council (GMC) imposed stringent practice conditions upon the GP for a period of two years.
2010	Following investigation by the Medicines Regulatory Group, the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland convened on 27th October 2010, for the purpose of making Inquiry into alleged misconduct by a pharmacist working in the Belfast area, who had on three occasions between May 2009 and August 2009 dispensed a medicinal product, namely furosemide, other than in accordance with a prescription in contravention of Section 58 of the Medicines Act 1968. There was a failure to comply with the current legislation and the principles and associated obligations of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics. The Pharmacist was found guilty of misconduct.
2010	Following investigation by the Medicines Regulatory Group, the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland convened on 12th April 2010, for the purpose of making Inquiry into alleged misconduct by a pharmacist working in County Down, who, in March 2009, made and supplied an unlicensed medicinal product, a colic mixture for administration to an infant. Following consideration of the matters presented, the Committee determined that the superintendent pharmacist was guilty of misconduct.
2010	A shop owner discovered selling 'legal highs' namely Benzylpiperazine (BZP) from premises in the Belfast area was prosecuted by the Department under the Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations etc) Regulations 1994. At court, she pleaded guilty to this offence and was fined £600.

2010	Following investigation by the Department, a person was discovered working as a Pharmacist while not registered with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI). The individual was subsequently precluded from registering with the Society for a period of 6 months.
2009	Controlled Drugs (Diazepam) which had been ordered through the internet and dispatched to a greater Belfast address were detected and intercepted. The matter was investigated by the Department. The Public Prosecution Service directed the recipient of the drugs to receive an ‘Official Caution’ for importation of controlled drugs, which will be held on record for 5 years.
2009	An industrial chemist was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for two years, after pleading guilty to charges relating to the placing on the market and supply of unauthorised veterinary medicines in contravention of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005. He also pleaded guilty to the supply of a counterfeit veterinary product.
2009	The Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland directed that two pharmacists be removed from the register following conviction for nine offences under the Theft Act (NI) 1969. The pharmacists will not be considered for restoration to the Register for a period of five and seven years respectively.
2008	Arising from a joint investigation by DHSSPS/PSNI and Lancashire Constabulary a Co. Antrim man who purported to be a doctor was convicted and fined £100 at Ballymena Magistrates Court for unlawful possession of Diazepam.
2008	Following conviction for offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 a pharmacist was removed from the pharmaceutical register. Not to be considered for registration for 10 years.
2008	Following conviction for offences under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005 a Co Londonderry veterinary practitioner was formally advised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to comply with all relevant legislation including Veterinary Medicines Legislation.
2008	Following the seizure of unlicensed veterinary medicines, A Co Down Veterinary Practitioner was formally advised by the Royal College of Surgeons to comply with all relevant legislation including Veterinary Medicines Legislation.

2008	A Pharmacist was convicted at Belfast Magistrates Court and fined a total of £600 on three charges relating to the unauthorised possession of Dexedrine, Diazepam and Temazepam in contravention of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
2008	Following joint investigation by the DHSSPS/PSNI arising from a sudden death caused by Potassium Cyanide poisoning a laboratory supply company was convicted and fined £250 at Antrim Magistrates Court for an offence under the Poisons (Northern Ireland) Order 1974.
2008	Following a joint investigation by the DHSSPS/Central Services Agency and WHSSB a Pharmacy company was convicted and fined a total of £13,500 at Enniskillen Magistrates Court on 9 charges of False Accounting in contravention of the Theft Act (NI) 1969.
2008	A retail trader was convicted and given a Conditional Discharge at Belfast Magistrates Court on three charges under the Marketing Regulations 1994 for supplying products (Legal Highs) containing a medicinal product.
2008	Following a joint investigation by the DHSSPS/PSNI a man was convicted and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment (suspended for 2 years) at Ballymena Crown Court on two counts of unauthorised possession of Class C drugs in contravention of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
2007	Following conviction at Magistrates Court for breaches of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 a series of conditions upon his registration were imposed by the General Medical Council on a Co Antrim General Medical Practitioner.
2007	A retail trader was convicted at Belfast Magistrates Court and given a Conditional Discharge for 12 months on three charges under the Marketing Regulations 1994 for supplying products (Legal Highs) containing a medicinal product.
2007	Enquiries confirmed that a doctor had obtained an excessive number of private prescriptions for Diazepam. During the course of the enquiry the doctor made a voluntary request to be removed from the Medical Register. The request was granted by the General Medical Council.

2007	Pharmacist was convicted at Newry Magistrates Court and fined £200 for possession of unauthorised veterinary medicines in contravention of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005.
2007	A Pharmacist was given a warning by the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland regarding dispensing irregularities.
2007	A Veterinary Practitioner was convicted and given a Conditional Discharge for 6 months at Londonderry Magistrates Court on 12 charges relating to the possession of unauthorised veterinary medicines in contravention of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005.
2007	An Agricultural Merchant was convicted and fined a total of £600 at Ballymena Magistrates Court on 12 charges relating to possession and supply of unauthorised veterinary medicines in contravention of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005.
2007	The Director of a Company with retail premises throughout Northern Ireland received an official caution following the supply of Traditional Chinese Medicines containing medicinal products.
2007	The secretary of a Traditional Chinese Medicine Company was convicted at Belfast Magistrates Court and fined £1000 for supplying Chinese medicines containing medicinal products contrary to the Medicines Act 1968.
2006	Agricultural Merchant convicted and fined £400 at Lisburn Magistrates Court for sale of unauthorised veterinary medicines.
2006	The Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland removed a pharmacist from the Pharmaceutical Register for failing to comply with Medicines (Labelling) Regulations 1976; Failing to comply with the safe custody of Controlled Drugs in contravention of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971; Failure to comply with the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Code of Ethics and Practice.

2006/2007	Following conviction at Coleraine Magistrates Court the General Medical Council “Fitness to Practice” Panel imposed a series of conditions on the registration of a General Medical Practitioner.
2006	General Medical Practitioner convicted and fined £1000 at Coleraine Magistrates Court for unlawful possession of a Controlled Drug and making false entries in Controlled Drug and making false entries in Controlled Drug Register in contravention of Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
2006	Pharmacist convicted at Bangor Magistrates Court and fined £500 under the Marketing Regulations 1994 arising from the sale of teething mixture.
2006	Pharmacist convicted at Bangor Magistrates Court and fined a total of £600 on two separate charges (1) Marketing Regulations 1994 and (2) Medicines Act 1968, arising from the sale of teething mixture.
2006	Proprietor of sex shop convicted at Belfast Magistrates Court and fined under Marketing Regulations 1994 for the supply of Kamagra tablets, which contained a medicinal product.
2005	Owner of Beauty Salon convicted and fined £75 at Belfast Magistrates Court for advertising Botox in contravention of the Marketing Regulations 1994.
2005	A pharmacist was given a warning by the Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland as to future conduct for failing to maintain proper records in Controlled Drugs Register.
2005	The Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland issued a reprimand to a pharmacist for the sale of veterinary medicinal products other than on a prescription issued by veterinary surgeon, contrary to section 58(2) of the Medicines Act 1968.
2005	The Statutory Committee of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland removed a pharmacist from the register following conviction at Stranraer Sheriff Court on 15 counts of fraud for which he was sentenced to 240 hours Community Service on each count. All 15 counts being in cumulo.

