

Minor Ailments

The Minister wrote to PCC on 15th August 2008 once again offering a meeting to discuss minor ailments. On this occasion PCC accepted the offer and a meeting took place on 15 September 2008 at which there was a useful exchange on the Minor Ailments Scheme. The Minister agreed to consider the points raised by PCC and a further meeting has been scheduled to take place shortly to discuss the way forward.

Category M

The £3m offer which was made, without conditions, to PCC in May 2008 has now been accepted by PCC. The money will be paid to community pharmacy contractors before the end of this calendar year.

Pre registration students

The Department has been aware for some time of the disparity in the level of payment for pre registration students in community pharmacy in Northern Ireland compared with their counterparts in Scotland and in the secondary care sector here. The Department has been successful in identifying the necessary additional funding to bring the payments for pre registration students in community pharmacy here to the same level as Scotland. The extra funding will be effective from 1 October 2008

Zero Discount

The ZD arrangements here have failed to reflect adequately the position which exists in the rest of the UK. The Department has been anxious to ensure that community pharmacy here is not disadvantaged and is now able to put in place new arrangements to match those which apply in Scotland. We have identified additional funding which allows any changes to be backdated to the 2007/08 year. The arrears for ZD are being paid in the November pay run

Controlled Drug Registers

We have been working for some time to put together a funding package which adequately recognises the additional costs to community pharmacists of meeting the new requirements for controlled drug registers. A payment is being made to each community pharmacy in the November pay run as follows

CD register	£50
Time commitment in data transfer	£150
Total Payable	£200