



ALL-PARTY PHARMACY GROUP

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Chair: Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP

Vice Chairs: Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL & Oliver Colvile MP

Treasurer: Margot James MP

Secretary: Stephen Lloyd MP

MPs call on Government to do more to tackle the problem of medicines shortages

May 23 2013: A year on from the group's inquiry into medicines shortages, Members of the All-Party Pharmacy Group have called on the Government to do more to alleviate the problem.

Commenting, the Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP, Chairman of the All-Party Pharmacy Group said:

"It's now been a year since the All-Party Pharmacy Group held a major inquiry into the problem of medicines shortages. Our report made a number of recommendations to Government about what needed to be done to end the problem. But a year a year on, much remains the same. I've continued to receive evidence on the impact of medicines shortages and I'm absolutely clear; medicines shortages is causing patient harm, and patients with very serious conditions are suffering extreme distress as result of not being able to get the medicines they need.

The Government needs to accept that this is a real problem, it's affecting thousands of people, and it urgently needs to end. We laid out clear recommendations in our report for how this problem might be solved – and we wouldn't be in this situation if the Government had followed them. I encourage the Government to look again at what we recommended and to act in the best interest of patients. In particular, the Government needs to look again at the possibility of exempting medicines from export on public health grounds, and to explore the possibility of imposing sanctions on those who unjustifiably violate the Government's own supply chain guidance."

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About the APPG

The All-Party Pharmacy Group is a group of MPs and peers from across the political parties. Its focus is on issues affecting the profession of pharmacy.

The group receives financial support from the Company Chemists' Association, the National Pharmacy Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The financial support funds the administrative assistance that the Group receives from Luther Pendragon.

Further information about the All-Party Pharmacy Group is available on the Group's website www.appg.org.uk