

10 April 2024

Open Letter to the UK Pharmacy Professions

From the Independent Chair of the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board and the UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers

Announcement of Independent Expert Members for the Advisory Board

The UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers (CPhOs) are delighted to announce the appointment of Independent Expert Members (IEMs) to the UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board who will participate in its first meeting on 23 April 2024.

Establishment of the Board as the vehicle for greater collaboration across the UK pharmacy professional leadership bodies (PLBs) and specialist professional groups (SPGs) over a three-year period initially was the principal recommendation of the [UK Commission on Pharmacy Professional Leadership's report](#), published in February 2023.

Since then, the CPhOs have taken the required steps to constitute the Board as an independent, advisory public body and establish a clear remit for its work. The process for its establishment has taken some months and the CPhOs would particularly like to thank the PLBs and SPGs involved and pharmacy professionals across the UK for their ongoing support for the work. Now that the Board has been established as an independent public body by the CPhOs, they will become its advisors and the Independent Chair will take lead responsibility.

Rationale

As the independent UK Commission report outlined, there is an urgent need for the pharmacy professions to work collaboratively to deliver on their potential, and address together a wide range of professional issues. These include the development of independent prescribing as part of the initial education and training for pharmacists, with thousands of newly-registered pharmacist independent prescribers joining the workforce every year from 2026, and an expansion of the clinical role of pharmacy technicians. It will be important to build and maintain the confidence of professionals and the public in these new roles and competencies, to ensure we bring people with us.

Setting up the Board is an important initiative that will further enable and empower the PLBs and SPGs to shape and lead the future for the pharmacy professions.

Independent body

To ensure it can carry out its remit effectively and guide future-focused leadership for the pharmacy professions, the Board has been established by the Department of Health and Social Care as an independent public body. Working within its remit, the Board will set its own agendas and provide advice to the PLBs and SPGs, which are its constituent members. The advice the Board provides is to be impartial. The UK CPhOs may also seek expert advice on professional leadership from the Board, as well as from PLBs and SPGs via existing arrangements.

Role and purpose

Facilitated by the Independent Chair, and supported by IEMs with outstanding leadership capabilities, the Board will lead the delivery of an ambitious vision set out by the UK Commission:

- (i) Supporting and enabling collaborative working
- (ii) Developing credible and authoritative leadership that is effective and speaks with one voice to Government, regulators, patients, employers and others in the public interest
- (iii) Developing the future arrangements for UK pharmacy professional leadership, that will contribute to the ambition to realise the future potential of pharmacy professionals in the NHS and other settings.

Independent Expert Members

Nine IEMs have been appointed to the Board through an open recruitment and an IEM for Scotland is being recruited. IEMs will play a pivotal role in shaping and supporting the Board's work and these appointments will ensure the Board is broad, balanced and ensure appropriate diversity.

Patient and Public Reference Group

The establishment of a Patient and Public Reference Group will be discussed at the first meeting of the Board and it is likely that its Chair will become a member of the Board once appointed.

Future state

The creation of the Board will support and steer a process of evolution for pharmacy professional leadership in the UK, matching the speed of change in healthcare and pharmacy professional practice more widely. The establishment of a wider Pharmacy Stakeholder Forum will also be discussed at the first Board meeting.

We look forward to the new independent Board engaging with pharmacy professionals across the UK to champion a new and dynamic phase of collaboration. We hope

pharmacists and pharmacy technicians across all four countries will join with us to create this positive future.

Best regards



Sir Hugh Taylor KCB
Independent Chair



Andrew Evans
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Wales



Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Northern Ireland



Alison Strath
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Scotland



David Webb
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for England



Annex: UK Pharmacy Professional Leadership Advisory Board Members

Name	Position	Organisation
Sir Hugh Taylor KCB Independent Chair		
Nonyelum Anigbo Ex Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	President	British Pharmaceutical Students' Association
Professor Claire Anderson Ex Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	President	Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Raymond Anderson Independent Expert Member	Director Associate Consultant	Northern Pharmacies Ltd Health and Social Care Leadership Centre, Belfast
Laura Angus Independent Expert Member	Chief Pharmacy Officer/Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation	NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board
Rebecca Chamberlain Independent Expert Member	Standards Manager	General Optical Council
Dr Jeanette Dickson Ex Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	Chair of Council	Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Mildred Johnson Independent Expert Member	Chief Pharmacist/Clinical Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation	Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Sheelin McKeagney Ex Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	Chair	Pharmacy Forum Northern Ireland
Dr Berwyn Owen Independent Expert Member	Community Pharmacist	Fferyllfa Penygroes Pharmacy, Caernarfon

Professor Mahendra Patel OBE Independent Expert Member	Director	Centre for Research Equity, University of Oxford
Mohamed Rahman Ex Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	President	UK Clinical Pharmacy Association
Shilpa Shah Independent Expert Member	Chief Executive	Community Pharmacy North East London
Karen Shuker Ex Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	President	College of Mental Health Pharmacy
Panayiotis Sphikas Independent Expert Member	Head of Pharmacy Operations	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Nicola Stockmann Ex Officio Member – Professional Leadership Body	President	Association of Pharmacy Technicians UK
Dr Graham Stretch Ex Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	President	Primary Care Pharmacy Association
Ellen Williams Independent Expert Member	Director of Regional Pharmacy Training	Pharmacy Workforce Development South
Joseph Williams Ex Officio Member – Specialist Professional Group	Chair	British Oncology Pharmacy Association
Ex Officio Member – Chair, Patient and Public Reference Group	In process	
Independent Expert Member – Scotland	In process	