

**PE1493/D**

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Dear Mr Howlett

**Consideration of Petition PE 1493**

I am writing in response to your letter of 14 November 2013, about a petition for Scotland to introduce a Sunshine Act to create of a searchable record of all payments healthcare professionals receive from the pharmaceutical industry.

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) is the regulator for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and registered pharmacy premises in Great Britain. It is our job to protect, promote and maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of patients and the public who use pharmaceutical services in England, Scotland and Wales.

As part of our regulatory functions we set standards of conduct, ethics and performance that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must follow. These standards can be accessed at <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/conduct-ethics-and-performance>.

The conduct of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians is judged against these standards and failure to comply could put an individual's registration at risk. These standards apply irrespective of the sector of practice that a registrant works in and they apply even if a pharmacist or pharmacy technician does not treat, care or interact directly with patients and the public.

Standard 2.2 requires that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must

*'Make sure that your professional judgement is not affected by personal or organisational interests, incentives, targets or similar measures'*

and standard 6.3 requires that pharmacists and pharmacy technicians must

*'Avoid conflicts of interest and declare any personal or professional interests you have. Do not ask for or accept gifts, rewards or hospitality that may affect, or be seen to affect, your professional judgement'.*

In addition to our standards of conduct, ethics and performance, the GPhC sets standards for registered pharmacies which pharmacy owners must meet. These standards apply to all pharmacies registered with the GPhC and can read in full at <http://www.pharmacyregulation.org/standards/standards-registered-pharmacies>.

Standard 2.6 requires pharmacy owners must ensure that *'Incentives or targets do not compromise the health, safety or wellbeing of patients and the public, or the professional judgement of staff'.*

I hope the above information about our regulatory standards is of assistance to you and the committee. If you would like further information or clarification about our standards, or any other aspects of the GPhC's work please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided below.

Yours sincerely

Lynsey Cleland  
Director for Scotland  
General Pharmaceutical Council