

Mr Alun Davidson,
Deputy Clerk,
Petitions Committee,
National assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

18th May 2009

Dear Alun,

**Petition presented by
Judith Evans' Pharmacy & Aneurin Evans Chemists Ltd**

I have spoken recently to your colleague Siân Phipps with regard to the above petition and it was agreed that we write a further letter to you in order to clarify a few points.

Our intention in submitting the petition was to point out the current anomalies of the present system of "neighbourhoods" as they stand with regard to relocating pharmacies in Wales.

As you know, no pharmacy is allowed to make a "minor" relocation as defined by the Pharmacy Regulations 1992 unless it falls within the defined neighbourhood.

The neighbourhood, when large in area, is able to include pharmacies over a distance of miles thus enabling a pharmacy within the neighbourhood to apply for a "minor" relocation from a considerable distance away. The Pharmacy Regulations suggest a short distance but do not specify the distance. There has been an instance in Briton Ferry of the Welsh Assembly Government allowing on appeal (ref 23-144 2006), Davies Chemists to move a distance of a mile but consideration was given to "serving the same population" rather than distance.

In order to serve the same population many pharmacies would have to breach the neighbourhood boundary – this is especially true if a surgery close to pharmacy moves and the pharmacy applies to move with it in order to serve the same patients. Current Guidelines to LHBs emphasise *that serving the same population* is important in patient care. It is this point that the petition addresses and one which will ultimately affect the patients of our two pharmacies who have reacted very strongly to our inability to move.

By not allowing neighbourhood boundaries to be moved and/or pharmacies to cross these boundaries where the relocation is a matter of yards rather than miles, WAG is not allowing LHBs to take patient care in to account when considering applications in Wales.

I know that Mrs Edwina Hart, the Minister for Health, is currently chairing a committee to look at Pharmaceutical services in Wales. We would therefore like this petition accepted so that she may consider its implications when drafting new measures for Pharmacy in Wales generally.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Evans (for Judith Evans' Pharmacy)

Jane Winstanley (for Aneurin Evans Chemists Ltd.)