

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

**Economy, Trade and
Rural Affairs Committee**

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Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social
Services

Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Rural Affairs and
North Wales, and Trefnydd

Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy

13 July 2023

Primary Care Electronic Prescription Service

Dear Eluned, Lesley and Vaughan,

Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) has raised concerns regarding the introduction of the primary care electronic prescribing service in Wales with the Committee. CPW is worried that the shift to electronic prescribing will have a negative impact on community pharmacies, as they will be unable to compete with large distance selling pharmacies based in England. CPW has stated that the reduction in the number of prescriptions dispensed in community pharmacies, along with the loss of additional purchases made by individuals filling prescriptions, is likely to lead to a loss of income which will result in pharmacy closures.

The Committee is concerned about community pharmacy closures as they are an important hub for rural communities and also can drive footfall to highstreets and thus provide a level of economic stimulus to an area.

Please can you provide the following:

- What assessment has been undertaken regarding the implementation of electronic prescribing on pharmacy closures?

- Has any analysis of the specific impact on rural communities been undertaken?

I have copied this letter to Russell George MS in his capacity as Chair of the Health Committee and Mark Isherwood MS in his capacity as Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail on the 's'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English