



Letter by Email to:
robfreel@btinternet.com

NHS Lanarkshire
Kirklands
Fallside Road
Bothwell
G71 8BB

Date: 24 June 2020
Our Ref: HK/AMcC
Direct Line: 01698 858176
Email: heather.knox@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Mr Freel,

Additional Pharmacy Application - Stonehouse

Thank you for your letter of 10 June regarding the additional pharmacy application process for the Stonehouse area.

In terms of the joint pre-application process that took place on 24 June 2019, please note that an expression of interest is required before a pre-joint consultation meeting can take place. At this meeting, our primary care department offered the process adopted by NHS Lanarkshire and the joint consultation questionnaire for the potential applicant to review. The department thereafter finalised the wording of the questionnaire before placing an advert in the Hamilton Advertiser newspaper.

The flowchart - produced by the Pharmacy Administration Leads Group – highlights the process that has been adopted by all Scottish health boards. It should be recognised that this is not a local document and contains the timescales specified within the regulations.

In our response of 20 February, we advised that the pre-joint consultation meeting took place on 24 June 2019. The date on which the joint consultation would begin was not provided as our response of 20 February predated the joint consultation beginning on 5 March 2020. This would last for 90 working days (excluding public holidays) and end on 13 July 2020. As we are only at a joint consultation phase, it is not possible for an application to be submitted at this time.

In our response of 14 May 2020, we provided the date of 27 February as the date on which the joint consultation was due to begin. The applicant, however, contacted us to request that this be delayed until 5 March. We apologise for providing the initial date in our response of 14 May.

As part of information gathering, NHS Lanarkshire has made use of SurveyMonkey as a method of obtaining feedback on public consultations. The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 28 May 2018 which put the governance of this method in doubt and joint consultations were therefore suspended until this could be investigated.

This, however, resulted in a backlog of processing joint consultations that had been held in abeyance. Following advice from our information governance team, privacy notices were included in the introduction to our survey which then allowed the public consultations to restart.

The Pharmacy Practices Committee (PPC) meets as and when required. The Chairs of the PPC participate in the committee as part of their duties as a non-executive board member. There is no set term of office other than the non-executive board members who chair the committee. Lay members are entitled to the reimbursement of travel expenses. Representatives from pharmacy services are entitled to the reimbursement of locum costs if needed, or a sessional fee if they are required to take time out of practice to attend.

A list of the current PPC members is provided below. A quorum for each PPC hearing is drawn from these members subject to their availability. The PPC is convened and is quorate with the following constitution:

- Chair;
- Lay member (maximum of three, minimum of two);
- Pharmacist (maximum of two, minimum of one – included in pharmaceutical list);
- Pharmacist (not included in pharmaceutical list).

PPC Membership (June 2020)

Margaret Morris, Chair (2013-present)

Lesley Thomson, Chair (2019-present)

Margaret Caraher, lay member

Carol Prentice, lay member

Laura Robertson, lay member

Charles Sargent, lay member

John Woods, lay member

Iain Allan, pharmacist (included in pharmaceutical list)

Parvez Aslam, pharmacist (included in pharmaceutical list)

Arif Hanif, pharmacist (included in pharmaceutical list)

Laura McGregor, pharmacist (included in pharmaceutical list)

Catherine Stitt, pharmacist (included in pharmaceutical list)

Yvonne Williams, pharmacist (included in pharmaceutical list)

Dorothy Findlay, pharmacist (not included in pharmaceutical list)

Neil Cassells, pharmacist (not included in pharmaceutical list)

Kenneth MacKenzie, pharmacist (not included in pharmaceutical list)

The minutes of the PPC are available on our website at:

www.nhslanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk/pharmacy-applications/

The statutory test was referenced in our letter of 14 May. The statutory test is contained within Regulation 5(10)(a) of the regulations. An application shall be granted by the Board “only if it is satisfied that the provision of pharmaceutical services at the premises named in the application is necessary, or desirable, in order to secure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in the neighbourhood in which the premises are located by persons whose names are included in the pharmaceutical list”.

As previously advised, the joint consultation process will end on 13 July. It is our aim to provide the potential applicant with a draft consultation analysis report (CAR) by week beginning 27 July. The potential applicant has 90 days from 13 July in which to submit their application.

As advised in our response of 14 May, the process to apply for a pharmaceutical contract is determined and governed by The National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 [SSI 2009 No. 183], as amended. As an NHS Board, we have to ensure that we apply the regulations and cannot depart from the processes they dictate.

I trust this is of assistance in providing further clarification.

If you have any queries, please contact our primary care department at pcs@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Heather A Knox

Heather Knox
Interim Chief Executive
NHS Lanarkshire