

Baroness Thornton  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Lords)



24 March 2010

Rt Hon the Lord Mawhinney  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NL

Tel: 020 7210 3000

Dear 

In my response to the question you raised in the exchange following Lord Patel's Question on prescription drugs on 17 March 2010, I informed you that the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer had written to the NHS Chief Executive and Monitor in February. This is not the case as in fact the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer wrote only to hospital Chief Pharmacists. However the NHS Chief Executive and Monitor wrote to NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts in order to make clear that NHS organisations should not be engaging in trading of medicines for profit.

I apologise for any confusion I may have caused and I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Glenys Thornton'.

GLENYS THORNTON