

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Mr Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast BT1 5GS

democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 02890520559

Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP3799
SINV-0058-2019

Date: 29 March 2019

Dear Mr Downey

COMMUNITY PHARMACY FUNDING

Your letter of 8 March 2019 refers in which you have issued an invitation to meet with an all-party delegation from the Council, and the Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI), to discuss a motion passed by the Council on 3rd December 2018 regarding community pharmacy funding.

My previous correspondence of 12 February 2019 set out the detail of substantial funding for community pharmacy that has been confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20. Since then, a further £800k has been confirmed for this financial year for community pharmacies.

Colleagues within the Department and the Health and Social Care Board have ongoing contact with representatives of CPNI on a wide range of funding issues. That is the most appropriate forum for engagement in relation to funding issues and development of new contractual arrangements for community pharmacy. I therefore do not feel that a meeting as you have proposed would be beneficial at this time.

Council members will appreciate that we face a difficult and challenging financial environment across the public sector and the health service in particular. However, Council members can be assured that the Department is committed to ensuring that we continue to have a sustainable community pharmacy network and effective contractual arrangements for community pharmacy.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY

Working for a Healthier People



