

**From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Professor Cathy Harrison, and
The Chief Executive Officer, PSNI, Mr Canice Ward**



Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Department of Health
Castle Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 90 523219
Email: cathy.harrison@health-ni.gov.uk

Mr Canice Ward
Chief Executive Officer
Pharmaceutical Society NI
Society House
73 University Street
Belfast
BT7 1HL
Tel: 028 90 326927
Email: canice.ward@psni.org.uk

By email to Pharmacy Technicians

Date: 8 June 2026

Dear Colleagues

We are writing to provide an update on the current position regarding the regulation and registration of Pharmacy Technicians in Northern Ireland.

At the outset, we wish to be clear that the current position is not where we want to be. We recognise that the absence of fully established regulatory arrangements for Pharmacy Technicians does not reflect our ambition for the profession or the important role Pharmacy Technicians play within the health and social care system.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (the Society) has advised that, due to financial pressures, regretfully its input to the Pharmacy Technician Regulation and Development (PTRD) project work has had to be paused at this time. This is a disappointing development for the workforce and for all involved in progressing this important work.

The Department is continuing to engage formally with the Society to explore options to ensure the future sustainability of pharmacy regulation in Northern Ireland. This work is being taken forward in partnership and will culminate in a Departmental consultation in 2026 on future models of regulation for the pharmacy profession, encompassing both Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians.

Notwithstanding these challenges, we want to reaffirm our strong commitment to progressing both the development and regulation of Pharmacy Technicians as an integral part of the pharmacy workforce. Pharmacy Technicians are highly skilled and

make a significant contribution to medicines optimisation, service delivery, and patient care across all sectors. Securing appropriate recognition through regulation remains a key priority.

To support the transition to a revised approach for the PTRD project, and to take stock of progress to date, a PTRD Oversight Board workshop has been scheduled for 29th June 2026. This will provide an important opportunity for stakeholders to share perspectives, reflect on learning, and help shape the next phase of the programme, with a particular focus on education, training, and workforce development.

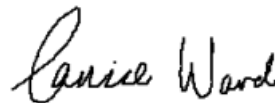
In closing, while we recognise that progress has not been as anticipated. The Department and the Society remain firmly committed to delivering sustainable and effective arrangements for the regulation and registration of Pharmacy Technicians. This is essential to support the future pharmacy workforce and to ensure the continued delivery of high-quality, safe care for the population of Northern Ireland.

Further updates will be provided as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely



Professor Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Department of Health



Canice Ward
Chief Executive Officer
Pharmaceutical Society NI

**Co-chairs of the Pharmacy Technician Regulation
and Development (PTRD) Oversight Board**