



# ALL-PARTY PHARMACY GROUP

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*Chair: Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP*  
*Vice Chairs: Baroness Cumberlege CBE DL & Oliver Colvile MP*  
*Treasurer: Margot James MP*  
*Secretary: Stephen Lloyd MP*

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## **Parliamentarians discuss possibility of decriminalising dispensing errors made by pharmacists**

### **January 28th**

The All-Party Pharmacy Group today held a public meeting on the issue of decriminalising dispensing errors made by pharmacists.

Kevin Barron MP, Chair of the Group, Oliver Colevile, Vice Chair, and Baroness Cumberlege, Vice Chair, questioned the following speakers:

- Dr Keith Ridge, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Department of Health
- Gerald Heddell, Director of Inspection Enforcement and Standards, MHRA
- Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive, General Pharmaceutical Council
- Annewen Rowe, Head of Whitehall Prosecutor Group Relations, Crown Prosecution Service

### **The Rt Hon Kevin Barron MP said:**

“The speakers at today’s meeting were absolutely clear: pharmacists should not face the prospect of prison and a criminal record for making a genuine dispensing error. Whilst the All-Party Group welcomes this, we should be clear that we’ve heard this all before. Those with responsibility for ushering in change must now move forward with a real sense of urgency – it does not need to take three years to remove the spectre of criminality that currently hangs over pharmacists in their daily work. A move to a system in which professional regulation takes the lead in dealing with genuine dispensing errors would have clear benefits in terms of learning and training – and it would improve patient safety.”

-ENDS-

### **About the APPG**

The All-Party Pharmacy Group is a group of MPs and peers from across the political parties. Its focus is on issues affecting the profession of pharmacy.

The group receives financial support from the Company Chemists' Association, the National Pharmacy Association, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The financial support funds the administrative assistance that the Group receives from Luther Pendragon.

Further information about the All-Party Pharmacy Group is available on the Group's website [www.appg.org.uk](http://www.appg.org.uk)