



Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain

# Independent Inquiry into a Professional Body for Pharmacy – the Clarke report



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# Purpose of Briefing

- To share key findings and recommendations of the Clarke Report  
*NB: these are the Report's findings – and are not agreed by Council. The Society's response will be published early May*
- Council is committed to listening to the views of other stakeholders before publishing its response - hence this meeting
- The Inquiry and report are independent. Full report is available on the website



# Background & Clarke Remit

- February 2007 White Paper; *Trust, Assurance and Safety: the regulation of health professionals*
- In June 2007 Council undertook to commission an Independent Inquiry into **the principles, functions and structure** for a new professional leadership body for pharmacy.
- The Inquiry was set up to allow the profession the widest possible debate on the issues relating to the new body.
- **Nigel Clarke** chaired the Inquiry, working with a panel of three expert advisers.



# Consultation & Report

- The Inquiry's consultation document went on the Inquiry website in November 2008.
- In response, the Inquiry received written evidence from 67 organisations and 160 individuals. Seven oral evidence sessions and eight public meetings were also held.
- The Society's own submission included a dedicated section prepared by the Scottish Pharmacy Board.
- The Inquiry has now made recommendations to the Society regarding the new professional body, contained in its report published on 2 April.



# General Findings of Clarke Report

- Significant unanimity within pharmacy on many issues
- Attitudes towards RPSGB strongly influenced by regulatory role
- Demands of regulatory role have conflicted with professional body development, particularly in terms of member services



# Role of the Society

*“The RPSGB is the only organisation around which the profession can coalesce and meet the timetable of change.”*

- The transition phase will be crucial



# Purpose & Focus of the Professional Body

- Leadership
  - to the public, as voice and advocate
  - to the profession
    - for practice
    - for science
    - for education
- Membership support services



# Patient Safety

- Safe use of medicines a vital issue for the public
  - health, social and financial costs
- Already a priority for the Society
- Patient safety must lie at the heart of the work of the new Professional Body