

Ms Charmian Runciman  
Scottish Executive Health  
Department  
St Andrew's House  
1ER  
Regent Road  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3DG

Date 8 March 2006  
Your Ref  
Our Ref AT/HEM/  
Enquiries to Sandy Thomson  
Extension 67838  
Direct Line 01343 567838  
Email sandy.thomson@nhs.net

Dear Ms Runciman

**Consultation Response: NHS Prescription Charges and Exemption Arrangements**

I agree with the Scottish Executive Health Department's intention to review prescription charges and exemption arrangements. The current system is complex, inconsistent and riddled with anomalies.

I would propose the following for consideration –

- All prescription items, for all conditions should have a nominal fee of £1.00.
- The maximum fee levied per visit to pharmacy regardless of number of items dispensed should be £5.00 i.e.
  - one visit, 2 items, charge £2.00,
  - one visit, 8 items, charge £5.00.

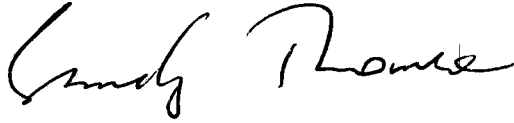
Advantages of this proposal are –

- All prescription items have some value to the patient, and may discourage medicine wastage
- Patients would be encouraged to get all their medicines on the same visit to the pharmacy, reducing the number of requests made to GP practice for repeat medicines, and enabling the community pharmacist to review all medicines during a single visit.

/-

If it is politically unacceptable to make such a radical change to the current system, the principles suggested above could still be incorporated into a system with groups of patients remaining exempt from all charges.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy Thomson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a prominent 'T'.

**Sandy Thomson**  
**Lead Pharmacist**

**RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM**

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name: *SANDY THOMSON*

Postal Address: *LEAS PHARMACY, MORAY CUSIP, ~~57~~ <sup>SPYNE</sup> HOSPITAL*

Consultation title: *DIFFERS ROAD, ELGIN NR30 5TW*  
*NHS PRESCRIPTION CHARGES AND EXEMPTION ARRANGEMENTS.*

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- (a) an individual  (go to 2a/b)
- (b) on behalf of a group or organisation  (go to 2c)

**2a. INDIVIDUALS:**

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

- Yes (go to 2b below)
- No, not at all

**2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes)**

- Yes, make my response, name and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

**2c ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:**

Your name and address as respondents **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes
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3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

- Yes
- No

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