



Message to all Pharmacists and Pre-registration pharmacists eligible to vote in the ballot on PDA Union recognition.

Please find enclosed a newsletter giving you more information about what the PDA Union can do if we win this ballot. We want you to be fully informed about what this ballot means, so please read our enclosed materials and contact us if you have any queries or comments on the content of the newsletter or any of our other communications.

This is the second communication we have sent to you at your home address via the Suitable Independent Person (SIP) to whom Boots has provided the names and addresses of all eligible voters in the ballot. The ballot itself will be run by a Qualified Independent Person (QIP) from 4 February - 8 March, and Boots will similarly need to provide your name and address details to them. The law gives the employer up to the 10th day of the ballot period to provide the names and addresses of all those entitled to vote. However, the company can provide this information anytime from day 1, which would give the maximum opportunity for votes to be cast.

During the ballot in 2018, there were significant instances of ballot papers not being received due to incorrect data being provided and pharmacists had to request duplicate packs be issued in order to vote and we had to argue for the ballot period to be extended. We've already heard from pharmacists who have some annual leave booked during the coming ballot period to say they are concerned that they may miss their chance to vote, if the company seek to minimise the actual voting period by releasing the data as late as possible.

We have therefore asked Boots to provide the name and address data to the QIP on day 1 of the ballot period. The company already have the process in place to generate the data on a daily basis because they are providing it to the SIP, hence this letter has reached you, and so we cannot see why providing the data to the QIP at the earliest opportunity would be difficult for the company to do.

However, we are aware that the senior management could benefit from a reduced period of voting because unless at least 40% of those entitled to vote, return a valid "Yes" vote nothing will change. So anything that might reduce turnout would work in their favour. This emphasises more than ever why **it's so important you inform yourself about this ballot and complete and return your ballot papers in favour of PDA Union recognition as soon as you receive them.**

To keep up to date about the ballot and hear from us, please also follow us on social media: "@the_pda" on Twitter; "PharmacistsDefenceAssociation" on Facebook; the PDA is also on LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

Please remember if you have any comments or questions for us, we'd be pleased to hear from you. You can email me at mark.pitt@the-pda.org

Yours sincerely

Mark

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