



The pre-registration pharmacist

Boots Pharmacy
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18 December 2018

Dear pre-registration trainee,

Trade Union representation at work

The PDA Union is the only independent trade union exclusively for pharmacists, pre-registration pharmacists and pharmacy students in the UK with over 28,000 members. 2,500 PDA Union members are employed by Boots and I wanted to make you aware of the campaign by your colleagues to secure an independent voice at work through trade union recognition. You will be eligible to vote in a secret recognition ballot starting on 4th February 2019.

Over 7,000 pharmacists work at Boots and the company demand a lot from their employees; as with any large employer, not all managers behave appropriately all of the time and not all company policies benefit employees. That's why individuals often need someone on their side. Though most people, most days, are not in conflict at work, nevertheless every day we are helping a Boots pharmacist or pre-registration pharmacist somewhere to resolve work-related issues. This includes cases of whistle blowing, unfair treatment, discrimination and bullying and sadly these things can happen to anyone at any stage of their career. PDA Union recognition would help deal with the root causes of problems in the workplace, rather than just the symptoms – prevention is better than cure.

You may have been told about how you can 'have a say' at work, however you may also have noticed that all these mechanisms are controlled by the management. The difference with an independent trade union is that we work for you, and with you, meaning that you can talk to us in complete confidence whenever you feel the need. Furthermore, if you face difficulties that need a bit more support, we employ our own expert pharmacists and lawyers who can give you the independent advice and help that you need to make work a better place to be.

Pharmacists at Boots have been campaigning for the past 6 years to secure an independent voice at work and in February the final stage in making that happen will be reached. All grade 5, 6 & 7 store and relief pharmacists and pre-registration trainees will be able to vote in a secret ballot. If enough vote "YES" for PDA Union recognition, then pharmacists and pre-registration pharmacists will be able to freely raise concerns and ideas through the union and have the right to negotiate matters relating to pay, hours and holiday as well as benefitting from a network of union trained safety representatives within Boots and much more besides.

The best way to ensure that you receive all our future communications is to join us now, which guarantees you don't miss out. The good news is that membership of the PDA is **FREE for pre-registration trainees**. Benefits of membership also include professional indemnity and legal defence insurance, PDA Plus deals and access to our training and events. All you have to do is go to www.the-pda.org/join and complete the online application form.

I hope we'll be welcoming you as our newest member TODAY.

Yours sincerely

Mark

Mark Pitt

Assistant General Secretary, PDA Union
www.pdaurecognition.co.uk