

[Your own name and address]

[Your MP's name]

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

[Date]

Dear

Regulation of practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine

I am writing to ask if you would raise an important issue for me with the Health Secretary Andrew Lansley.

I am currently receiving treatment from a local qualified Chinese herbal medicine practitioner. However, from April 2011, when the European Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products comes into force, many of herbs and medicines that are vital in Chinese medicine will no longer be available to my practitioner. The medicine that I rely on will be among those affected.

Currently, my practitioner decides which herbs I need, following a thorough consultation, and my prescription is made up by a specialist external supplier. I understand that from April 2011 these external prescription services will only be available to health professionals who are regulated by the state.

The previous Government failed to introduce the statutory regulation of herbal medicine practitioners and if the current Government does not act, I will no longer get the treatment I need.

I am concerned that some poor quality medicines may be available, illegally, from the internet or from back-street suppliers. I am also aware that responsible practitioners, such as mine, may have to close their clinics if this isn't resolved.

[Please write a comment here about why you use herbal medicine or what your circumstances will be without access to Chinese herbal medicine from your practitioner, etc]

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Please write and sign your name at the bottom of the letter.]