

Notes for letter writers:

Doing the following will help what you've sent to be taken seriously, so please:

- 1) Date your letter**
- 2) Include your name and a postal address at the top**
- 3) Please write a comment about why you use herbal medicine or what your circumstances will be without access to Chinese herbal medicine from your practitioner. Feel free to be very enthusiastic about Chinese herbal medicine and to stress how badly affected you will be if you can no longer access the medicines you need.**
- 4) Sign and print the letter at the bottom!**

Andrew Lansley
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London SW1A 2NS

dhmail@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Andrew Lansley,

Regulation of practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine

I understand that the previous Government carried out a public consultation about the statutory regulation of herbal medicine practitioners and that a decision has yet to be reached. I am writing to you as I am very concerned about the consequences if statutory regulation does not go ahead.

My practitioner is a member of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine and is therefore fully qualified. However, from April 2011, when the European Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products comes into force, my practitioner will no longer have access to the full range of medicines.

I am particularly concerned that an important aspect of Chinese herbal medicine will be lost. 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. If the current Government does not act, I will no longer get the treatment I need.

I am concerned that herbal 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.

I urge the Government to act now so that I, and the many other people who rely on Chinese herbal medicine, can continue to receive the high-quality treatment and medicines that we need.

Yours sincerely