

6th March 2015

Tricia Morgan
Primary Care Contracts Manager
NHS Grampian
Westholme
Woodend Hospital
Aberdeen
AB15 6LS

Dear Ms Morgan

- i. Proposed Re-Closure of Tarves Branch Site**
- ii. Reduction in Opening Hours at Methlick Branch**

I am writing on behalf of Haddo Medical Group to notify you of our intention to close the branch surgery at Tarves. We will also be reducing the hours in which we are open at our branch site in Methlick.

As you are aware, following the opening of a Pharmacy in Tarves, there has been a very long, drawn out process, around whether Haddo Medical Group should be allowed to continue to dispense to any of our patients.

A Legal Challenge was made against the decision to allow us to continue dispensing, resulting in NHS Grampian carrying out a Review of Dispensing. A recommendation from the Review Panel – *to allow Haddo only to dispense to patients with serious difficult in obtaining their medication by virtue of both the need to obtain medication following the issuing of an acute prescription and that on that day, they do not have access to a car to travel to a pharmacy* -was submitted to NHS Health Board. Following a full Board meeting, this recommendation has been upheld.

Therefore for all intents and purposes, what we are left with, cannot be classed in any shape or form as dispensing. This decision has led us to look at the current services we provide.

Dispensing is a large part of our workload. Our staffing has always been geared up to cope with the demands of dispensing. Removal of this workload means, as a practice, we have to re-evaluate what support we need, to provide this reduced service. We also have to consider the most effective & efficient means to deliver our services.

Aberdeenshire Community Health Partnership (ACHP) is aware of our position. We have met with NHS Grampian (through ACHP) and will continue to work closely with them to review and facilitate any changes to the delivery of services. Adam Coldwells and the CHP continue to seek clarification on specific points within the process.

You may remember we have been in this position before, when we closed Tarves surgery. We notified you of our intention and we went through the process before closing the branch site.

However, as a practice, we decided to re-open the surgery, following some adjustments to dispensing.

We have been under the threat of the removal of dispensing for a few years. At times, we were given formal notification of its removal. The uncertainty of the future has put pressure on all of our team, some of whom have resigned and taken posts elsewhere. We have had to plan for what seemed inevitable, therefore as staff have move on, we have been downsizing naturally.

We are contracted to provide medicals services. These services we will continue to provide, making more use of our purpose built premises at Pitmedden. Although we are making a reduction on the opening hours and the number of sites we operate from – these services will not be removed, only relocated to the main site.

As I am sure you will agree, although we are a medical practice, we are also a business. With the loss of dispensing, it is not viable for a practice our size to continue to operate from three surgeries. Please see attached Appendix regarding our decision making process which has led us to this conclusion.

It is with much regret that we are notifying of our intention to close Tarves Branch Surgery on 31st March 2015. I have given you notice of our intention to reduce the opening hours at Methlick surgery. Methlick changes will start on 27th April, when we will be reduced to 5 mornings per week.

We apologise for the delay in sending this notification. Following discussions with the ACHP, we are awaiting information & confirmation regarding the removal of dispensing. Unfortunately we feel it is not realistic to hold off any longer. We need to give our patients notification of the changes, which as a practice, we feel we have no choice but to make.

Yours sincerely
On behalf of Haddo Medical Group

Mrs V Tanner
Practice Manager