

AHMTCM Consultation Team
Department of Health
Room 2N09
Quarry House
Quarry Hill
Leeds LS2 7UE

20th October 2009

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in response to the Joint UK-wide consultation on the Report to Ministers from the DH steering Group on the Statutory Regulation of Practitioners of Herbal Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Other Traditional Medicine Systems Practised in the UKLS2

My family and I have been regular users of alternative healthcare, including Herbal Medicines and Chinese Medicines, for the past 40 years, and have been very happy with the treatment we have received from practitioners of these approaches.

I believe that the quality, efficacy and appropriateness of such treatments is best protected, evaluated, and administered by professional, specialised medical herbalists.

I wish to safeguard the right of myself and my family to have the choice of using professionally prescribed herbal medicine, with the practitioner of our choice, and would be strongly against any moves which threatened this right. Indeed I should like to see herbal medicine integrated into the national health-care system, making it possible for my GP and Medical Herbalist to communicate and share professional responsibility for my health care.

I understand that the Government's own House of Lords report started the process of regulation of herbal medicine in 2000. The Steering Group reported in June 2008 with clear direction as to how and why herbalists should be regulated, and I am in agreement with these proposals, which seem to me to adequately protect the public while allowing flexibility of personal choice.

It seems to me that, all due care and process having been taken, it is now time for the Government to enact the legislation which would allow properly qualified herbalists to be statutorily regulated.

Yours faithfully,