

Commission Discussion Document on Maximum Levels in Vitamin and Mineral Products

Response from The Scottish Health Food Retailers Association

The Scottish Health Food Retailers Association was founded in 1994 to promote the interests of the approximately 100 independent health food stores in Scotland, all of them SMEs. Devolution in Scotland has led to the association taking a more active part in legislative issues although we continue to work closely with the National Association of Health Stores with regard to EU issues.

Independent health food stores are prime examples of community stores. Besides their core business of retailing natural, organic, and special diet foods as well as herbal and homeopathic remedies and nutritional supplements they serve as a centre for sharing information on health topics.

Being SMEs working in an area of relatively small population health stores are very vulnerable to changes in the products they are allowed to sell.

Our members are concerned that if they were to lose the right to continue to sell the safe high dose vitamin and mineral supplements which form a core part of their current business they would be unlikely to remain profitable enough to survive.

Because we work closely with the National Association Of Health Stores and were involved in formulation their response to the commission questions we fully endorse their submission and have nothing to add to their responses to the individual questions.

The products sold by our members have an enviable record for safety and any legislation which disproportionately affects the products will be damaging to trade, consumer choice and contrary to the principles of the European Union.

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