

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

August 2021

Dear Constituent

Thank you for your email about prescriptions.

As you know, under current guidance in England, there are cases in which an individual can be exempted from prescriptions. There is an extensive list of conditions exempted from the charge, in addition to exemptions for people on certain benefits or through the NHS Low Income Scheme. The system of exemptions as a whole means that 89 per cent of prescriptions are dispensed without charge. Additionally, patients who need more than one prescription each month can save a minimum of £20 every three months by purchasing a pre-payment certificate (PPC) from the NHS Business Authority (further information can be found here: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/help-nhs-prescription-costs/prescription-prepayment-certificates-ppcs>), which covers an unlimited number of prescriptions for the length of the certificate, regardless of whether they specifically relate to the condition.

I understand that the Department of Health and Social Care is currently consulting on aligning the upper age for NHS prescription charge exemptions with the state pension age, which I recognise you are concerned about. I would therefore encourage you to partake in this consultation here: <https://consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/609bec33c72fa2128606b486>

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours sincerely  
Peter Gibson

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*Member of Parliament for Darlington*

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