

Application by H I Weldrick Ltd to close the pharmacy at Crown Street Surgery, 17 Crown Street, Swinton, Rotherham, S64 8NB and move the services to the pharmacy at 1a-3a Church Street, Swinton, Rotherham, S64 8QA

Explanatory notes by NHS England

Q1. What is this application for?

H I Weldrick Ltd wishes to close the pharmacy at Crown Street Surgery, 17 Crown Street, Swinton, Rotherham, S64 8NB and move the services to the pharmacy at 1a-3a Church Street, Swinton, Rotherham, S64 8QA.

These notes explain the process we follow when deciding whether to give permission.

Q2. Why have I been sent a copy of the application?

You are being invited to make comments on the application before NHS England takes a decision on whether the pharmacy can go ahead. Any comments must be received before the end of the 30-day period mentioned in the letter.

Applications are not confidential. If you want, you may share details with anyone else who might be interested. They can also make comments within the same 30-day period.

Any comments we receive will be sent to H I Weldrick Ltd. They will have a chance to respond to us about those comments.

When we come to make a decision, NHS England will consider any comments it has received and any response to those comments from H I Weldrick Ltd.

Q3. What would the pharmacy's opening hours be and what services would it provide?

Section 3 of the application form includes the proposed opening hours.

"Core opening hours" are those which the pharmacy would be unable to change without our permission.

The pharmacy may also open for longer. This is called having "supplementary opening hours". The pharmacy would be able to change these by giving us three months' notice.

Every pharmacy must dispense NHS prescriptions, accept unwanted medicines for disposal and give advice on how to treat minor illnesses yourself.

Pharmacies may also offer other services. Most pharmacies offer:

- The Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS);
- the New Medicines Service (NMS), which is advice when someone starts a new drug;
- vaccinations against flu.

Q4. Why does H I Weldrick Ltd want to close the pharmacy at Crown Street Surgery, 17 Crown Street, Swinton, Rotherham, S64 8NB?

H I Weldrick Ltd doesn't think that closing this pharmacy will create a gap in the provision of services and they have explained why they think this in section 5.5 of the application.

Q5. How will NHS England decide whether to give permission for a new pharmacy?

If we think that the closure will create a gap in the provision of services we have to refuse the application. We will therefore look at what everybody has to say before we make our decision.

Q6. When will a decision be made?

We expect to make a decision by 13 May 2023.

Q7. What will happen if permission is given?

If we decide to give permission for the pharmacy to close, this does not automatically mean that it will happen. Other local pharmacies may be able to appeal against the decision. Appeals are dealt with at national level by NHS Resolution.

If no appeals are received or if they are rejected by NHS Resolution, H I Weldrick Ltd would then have up to six months to close the pharmacy at Crown Street Surgery, 17 Crown Street, Swinton, Rotherham, S64 8NB although this could be extended to nine months. If those deadlines were not met, then the permission would expire.

Q8. What if permission is refused?

H I Weldrick Ltd would be able to appeal.

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