

## **Application by Sohawon Property Company Ltd to open an internet pharmacy at Unit 4, Sutton Road, Admaston, Shropshire, TF5 0AY**

### **Explanatory notes by NHS England**

#### **Q1. What is this application for?**

**Sohawon Property Company Ltd** wishes to open an NHS internet pharmacy at **Unit 4, Sutton Road, Admaston, Shropshire, TF5 0AY**. This type of pharmacy is also referred to as 'distance selling premises' and operates under strict rules which means it is not able to provide services face to face at the premises.

A pharmacy can only give patients medicines prescribed by NHS GPs if it has NHS England's permission. We give permission for this type of pharmacy where we are satisfied that they will be able to provide services safely and effectively without seeing the patient face to face. This type of pharmacy provides the same services as any other type of pharmacy, but you can't, for example, take your prescription there to be dispensed or collect it once it has been dispensed. Instead you could post it to the pharmacy or ask your GP to send it electronically. The pharmacy would then dispense it and send it to you either via the post or a courier.

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 45-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 45-day period.

Any comments we receive will be sent **Sohawon Property Company 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 **Sohawon Property Company 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:

- Medicines Use Reviews (MURs), which are sometimes called medicines check-ups
- the New Medicines Service (NMS), which is advice when someone starts a new drug
- vaccinations against flu.

The services that **Sohawon Property Company Ltd** is offering to provide are listed in section 4 of the application form. Although **Sohawon Property Company Ltd** has listed lots of other services, it is not a guarantee that those services can or will be commissioned by NHSE/I or the CCG.

**Q4. How will NHS England decide whether to give permission for a new pharmacy?**

Firstly we need to check to make sure **Sohawon Property Company Ltd** is offering to provide services to anyone in England who may want to use them.

Then we look at how they say they will provide services without seeing the patient face to face. We need to check to make sure they are able to provide all the services you would expect from a pharmacy safely and effectively.

**Q5. When will a decision be made?**

We expect to make a decision by **August 2023**

**Q6. What will happen if permission is given?**

If we decide to give permission for the pharmacy to open, 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, **Sohawon Property Company Ltd** would then have up to 12 months to open, although this could be extended to 15 months. If those deadlines were not met, then the permission would expire.

**Q7. What if permission is refused?**

**Sohawon Property Company Ltd** would be able to appeal.

**Q8. Where can I find more information?**

For more information about how applications like this are dealt with, read Chapter 11 of the guidance available on this webpage:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-pharmaceutical-services-assessing-applications](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-pharmaceutical-services-assessing-applications)

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