

From Gillian Merron MP
Minister of State



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The Earl Howe
House of Lords
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22/3/10

Dear Earl Howe,

Thank you for your letter of 26 February to Baroness Thornton enclosing correspondence from Mr John Perrott of 20 Greenacre Court, Lancaster LA1 4LE about benzodiazepine dependency. I am replying as the Minister responsible for policy on dependency on over the counter medicines.

I was sorry to read about Mr Perrott's health problems and can appreciate his concerns about the prescribing of benzodiazepines.

I note that Mr Perrott has written directly to the Department on this issue, and an official replied to him on 3 March (our ref: TO00000485190). Our position remains as set out in that reply, a copy of which I have enclosed for your convenience. Mr Perrott has also written to his MP on the matter, and I have responded in similar terms.

I hope this clarifies the Government's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

GILLIAN MERRON