



HEALTH STORES UK UPDATE

by Len Glenville



Health Stores UK calls for Government action amid unacceptable energy price increases

Health Stores UK has joined other independent retailer trade associations to urge the Government to support our members across the country in these extremely challenging times by calling for financial support and an energy cap for small businesses to enable them to continue to offer local employment and serve their local communities.

It certainly seemed as if businesses were being targeted with eye watering price increases by energy companies to make reparations for the consumer price cap, which was not only unacceptable but unsustainable for many of our members, all of whom have given their all over the past few years and are committed to their businesses, their communities, their staff and their customers.

So, we were delighted to learn that the new Prime Minister had listened to the concerns of multiple trade associations to bring in a price cap for businesses, at least over the winter. Of course, we would have liked for the help to have been more extensive, but reports confirm that the Government is looking at how it can help vulnerable businesses going forward. In the meantime, we will, of course, continue to lobby vigorously on your behalf.

In other news, we have rebranded – welcome to Health Stores UK.

The rebrand was a key recommendation of a recent survey that looked at ways the organisation can promote independent health food retail most effectively in future years, whilst at the same time growing our membership and influence with key stakeholders.

The rebrand is backed by a high-visibility print and digital marketing campaign, taglined 'Say hello to Health Stores UK', and a striking new Health Stores UK logo courtesy of Diversified Communications, completes the brand refresh.

And we are absolutely delighted to have been gifted the HealthyDoesIt consumer website by the HFMA and look forward to building on the existing connection between consumers and independent health stores. We would like to thank everyone involved in developing this exceedingly valuable asset – we are proud to be its

new caretaker.

Onto our ShopTalk webinar; the recent online event, hosted by experienced retailers and qualified nutritional therapists, Joanne Hill (Amaranth) and Vicky Perks (Beanfreaks), explored joint health. Many thanks to Chris Morrey, of Natures Aid, for his contribution and we look forward to the next ShopTalk, which will feature immunity.

The live Shop Talks sessions are open to all, but Health Stores UK members will be able to view on-demand versions at any time. Head over to the website www.nahs.co.uk/shoptalk/ now to register your place.



We're NHT Summit ready

Before signing off, a few words about the NHT Summit (October 2, Manchester). We are really looking forward to this inspiring gathering of the independent trade.

As well as catching up with colleagues and friends, the summit offers a great way to discover latest products and trends and take advantage of a fantastic education programme that is tailor-made for independent health stores.

Make sure you drop by at the Health Stores UK stand, where we will be promoting the multiple benefits of membership, talking about some exciting upcoming developments, and offering delicious vegan cupcakes and kombucha champagne!

If you haven't registered already, head over to nhtsummit.co.uk now. See you in Manchester!

Our committee is committed to ensuring that independent health food stores are given the full recognition they deserve and have access to all of the tools they require to make a success of their businesses, but we do need the support of retailers to achieve this. Join us for as little as £21 per month by monthly direct debit or annually via the 'Join Us' button on our website, www.nahs.co.uk, and together we can drive our industry forward.

■ **Health Stores UK, your association, your voice!** Contact office@nahs.co.uk or call 01875 341408 for further details.