

Pfizer pleads guilty in painkiller case

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[FT.com / Companies / Pharmaceuticals - Pfizer agrees to plead guilty in painkiller case.](#)

Pfizer, the world's largest pharmaceutical group, on Wednesday agreed to plead guilty to illegally promoting its painkiller Bextra, as part of a record-breaking \$2.3bn final settlement reached with federal and state authorities across the US.

The company signed a “**[corporate integrity agreement](#)**” with the **Department of Health and Human Services** requiring regular and independently audited reports over five years designed to ensure improved marketing practices.

But of course no company would ever do transfer mispricing.

This was fraud.

So is transfer mispricing.

[Apologists for big business](#) deny such fraud exists and promote research methods to find it that cannot work.

It's time we admitted the truth: business is willing to be fraudulent when it thinks it can get away with it. It does so at cost to us all. This is not victimless crime. And the campaigns I am involved with seek to tackle those crimes.

Honest business should support what we do. So far none have. Doesn't that say it all?