

1 February 2024

All General Practitioners and Practice Managers in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland

Dear Colleagues

Re GMS Contract 2024/25

General practice funding has been reduced year after year, which together with a significant increase in workload has left practices struggling to provide a safe and responsive service to patients. This has led to disenchanted GPs and staff, and frustrated patients.

The LMC has highlighted before, that general practice would need a 52% increase in funding to restore it to 2016 levels, and a recent independent study showed a 7% reduction in the past few years. Many practices are struggling, with practices regularly closing for good, and the number of fully trained GPs continuing to fall. In LLR every GP now looks after an additional 400 patients.

It is against this background that the government has cynically offered a sub inflationary increase for next year. This will result in further deterioration in services for patients, and further pressure, stress, and anxiety for those trying to manage the service.

Please watch [this powerful video](#) from Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer, Chair of the BMA's GP committee explaining what this will mean for practices and their patients. Katie will also be giving a presentation at our Annual General Meeting on 21 March 2024.

She announces that there will be a referendum of GPs from 1 March 2024. This will be limited to BMA members as the recognised Trade Union. I would recommend that GPs consider joining the BMA for the purpose of completing this referendum and to be part of the movement to save general practice.

Along similar lines the BMA has recently changed how members are elected to the Representative Body (RB - the policy setting 'parliament' of the BMA). Instead of being elected at a local BMA Division meeting, this year they are being elected by an online election of all BMA members in an area. In usual times this would be an improvement, increasing democracy. However, the pressure group 'DoctorsVote' are putting up preferred candidates in every area and mobilising their support.

DoctorsVote are a single interest group with the sole aim of pay restoration for Junior Doctors. Whilst it is crucial for the future of the profession that Junior Doctors achieve this end, this year, it is also important that the RB also has broader representation, and in particular a strong GP voice so that our agenda is not lost and has a clear focus and support within the BMA. I would therefore urge all GPs who are BMA members to vote in this election, supporting all the GPs who are standing ([BMA Online Nominations and Elections](#)). As a declaration of interest, I am the honorary secretary of the local Division and standing for the RB.

As we demonstrated in the recent 'Notice to Quit' process, general practices are a formidable force when we work together in the interest of practices and our patients.

Yours sincerely



Dr Grant J Ingrams
Executive Chair

ADVISE SUPPORT REPRESENT

Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Local Medical Committee

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