

(iii) Details of the poll

The poll will be used to allow you to choose between the two options presented below; whether you wish the GPC to conclude discussions based on your government's offer (option A) or whether you would accept the consequences of the alternative proposals (option B). You will also be able to express your views about both options and further issues relating to the wider NHS. Further questions will be asked rather than simply your views about option A and B. The outcome of the poll will allow the GPC negotiators to consider the most appropriate action based on responses and to strive to get the best deal for GPs.

Please do not unintentionally spoil your poll paper by writing "none of the above" or crossing out BOTH Option A and Option B. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE OPTION. Either A or B WILL be forced on the profession and you are invited to select which with your reasoning.

A high response rate will be necessary to demonstrate the strength of feeling to the government and GPs will be able to express their views in supplementary questions.

Although the poll is about a GMS contract solution for 2008/09, all GPs will be able to respond. It would be usual for PMS, PCTMS and APMS practices to be offered the same DES arrangements and that their local contracts would be modified to deliver broadly similar working patterns to GMS practices. PCOs will be instructed to enforce a contract that will be at least as onerous as the governments' offer, if it is accepted, and similarly will have the alternative proposals implemented if the offer is rejected. Salaried GPs, Freelance GPs and GP specialty registrars / trainees will also be able to respond as the outcome of the poll will have an impact on all those working in GP practices.

GP trainees in their ST1 or ST2 training years are able to participate in the poll. However, owing to difficulties with the data that is held for these members which makes it impossible to distinguish ST1 and ST2 GP trainees from junior hospital doctors, these trainees will need to register their details (full address and name, training level **and including GMC number**) in an email to gptrainees@bma.org.uk which will allow them to receive a poll paper. GP Specialty Registrars (ST3) who are already registered should receive documentation through the post automatically.

The BMA is working to improve how data for GP trainees is kept to avoid the need for this process in future surveys and communications.

Any GP who has not received the poll documentation by Thursday 21 February 2007 who believes they should have, with the exception of ST1 and ST2 GP trainees as referred to above, should contact the Electoral Reform Society on 020 8889 9203

The poll will run from early in the week commencing Monday 18 February – Friday 29 February. There is an extremely tight turn around time between dispatch and the deadline for the poll however, unfortunately, it will not be possible to complete the poll online.