



Department of Health & Social Care

*From the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

27th November 2025

Dear colleagues,

Firstly, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to you and your teams for all the work you are putting in to ensure the NHS is well prepared for what will be a difficult winter. So far this autumn you have provided 8.3 million flu vaccinations and put general practice access on a strong footing going into the winter months. Patient satisfaction with general practice is improving, with 73.9% reporting a good overall experience, up from 67.4% in July 2024. This is a significant achievement, and the credit is all yours.

Over the last 18 months, I have consistently promoted the importance of general practice and have backed this up with meaningful action:

- We struck the first contract deal with the BMA GPCE in 4 years last year, backed by £1.1 billion in 2025/26 (an 8.9% cash uplift), the biggest in over a decade.
- Within months of entering government, we invested an additional £82 million into the ARRS scheme and removed red tape to allow you to recruit over 2,500 extra GPs. I am now actively looking at ways I can introduce further flexibilities into the scheme to continue boosting GP employment.
- To ensure general practice is rewarded for the additional work you take on through advice and guidance, we have introduced a financial incentive backed by additional funding.

I recognise that there is more work to do, and I want to do that working in partnership with GPs, who are some of the most innovative people working in our health service.

Earlier this month I had the pleasure of observing a Neighbourhood Health simulation event at the NHS Providers conference. GPs up and down the country are at the leading edge of this work, and we have so much to learn from you as we co-design our plans for a neighbourhood health service. You are the people with the expertise and experience to deliver this, and that is why general practice will be at the heart of the neighbourhood health service, in many cases leading it.

Amidst all this brilliant work, you will be aware that the BMA GPCE has launched a formal dispute with the government over the 1st October online access contract changes which they agreed to, and which the vast majority of practices have now adopted.

I know there has been a lot of noise surrounding this in recent weeks, so I wanted to take the opportunity to set out the facts and give you the confidence that this is a government deeply committed to the work you and your teams are doing to get the NHS back on its feet and make it fit for the future.

Since entering government, I have sought a constructive relationship with the BMA GPC which, until recently, I believe we had. I am a staunch supporter of the trade union movement, but serious relationships with government demand a certain level of mutual respect and professionalism. Your union representatives are currently making it impossible for me and my officials to engage in good faith in the way we would all want.

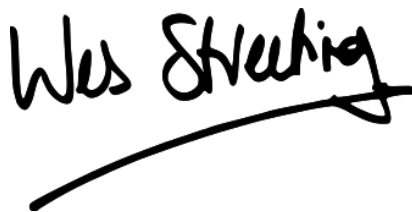
On Friday 7 November, the Chair of the BMA GPCE, Dr Katie Bramall, gave a speech at the 2025 annual England LMC Conference in which she accused the government of being “traitors” to the profession and of “disingenuousness”, “duplicity” and “gaslighting”. This speech was not just deeply unprofessional and unbecoming of a professional representative body, it was misleading. The BMA agreed these contract changes in February 2025 and any suggestions to the contrary are factually incorrect.

In spite of their actions, I am determined to ensure that general practice continues to go from strength to strength, including ensuring we support all practices to successfully implement new contract changes. I know not everyone’s circumstances are the same, which is why NHS England and ICBs are providing opportunities for bespoke support and peer learning so that, over time, everyone can benefit from the positive impact we know reliable online access can have for patients and staff alike.

What’s more, we remain committed to the substantive reform of the GP contract within this parliament and our ten-year workforce plan due to be published next year will put rewarding careers in general practice at its heart.

This is a government that wants to work constructively with the GP profession in genuine partnership, and I sincerely hope the BMA GPCE will choose to de-escalate their dispute. I will shortly be writing to the BMA GPCE and a range of general practice stakeholders to begin consultation for the 2026/27 GMS contract, ensuring we reflect the diversity of views amongst the profession and patients as we establish our next steps to get general practice back on its feet and make it fit for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wes Streeting". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly curved line that extends from the end of the signature towards the left.

RT HON WES STREETING MP