

Dr Amanda Doyle OBE

National Director of Primary Care & Community Services
NHSE

Ed Scully

Director of Primary & Community Health Care
DHSC

1st May 2025

Dear Amanda and Ed,

We appreciate the invitation to meet conveyed by Marli in an email to colleagues following the agreement of the 2025/26 GMS contract. We are keen to support the establishment of working groups to iron out the detail of how online access for routine appointment requests and GP Connect enhanced functionality will work in practice.

As you know, we agreed in principle to both proposals, but the devil will be in the detail and the final shape of these programmes will drastically impact the administrative, information governance and clinical liability burden placed on practices across the country. We have had a significant number of colleagues approach us with anxieties about these changes and the workload impact on themselves and their teams.

There is significant concern around GP liability for information placed in patient records by other professionals. There is also the issue of challenges to GPs over data breaches/information governance problems due to the information added to the GP record by others outside the practice. We would find it valuable to discuss adding data breaches into CNSGP cover from October to reassure our colleagues.

We also want this new scheme to adhere to the Caldicott principles around the use of patient data and what is visible to others accessing the patient record.

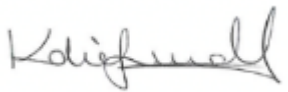
Following an initial meeting between ourselves and you and your team, we propose that working groups be set up comprising members from the BMA GP Committee IT Policy Group, the RCGP Health Informatics Group, NHSE programme teams and



representatives from DHSC who will be responsible for the long-term operation of these programmes.

Although we have some time before the go-live dates in October 2025, experience has taught us that implementing policies like these will take time, so we therefore agree that holding initial meetings for both groups no later than 16th May with subsequent meetings recurring every 2 weeks (with the ability to increase/decrease frequency as needed) is sensible.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer
Chair
General Practitioners Committee England, BMA



Dr David Wrigley
Deputy Chair
General Practitioners Committee England, BMA

