

## LMC UK Conference

### GPC UK reforms briefing

#### Purpose

This briefing paper is to update on the planned reforms to GPCUK. These reforms follow the below motion being passed overwhelmingly at LMCUK 2023.

*20 LIVERPOOL: That conference, with respect to GPC UK:*

*(i) expects the committee to represent the interests of all GPC committees and focus on addressing pan-UK issues affecting all components GPC committees, including sessional and GP trainee committees*

*(ii) demands clarity on the composition of GPC UK*

*(iii) expects any changes to the composition of GPC UK to allow it to function as intended, focusing on pan-UK issues, without any one component committee dominating the membership of the committee.*

#### Current GPC UK membership

The membership of GPC UK and its makeup varies every year depending on the results of elections. Nevertheless, the general trends remain the same each year. During the 2022-23 session, there were 83 voting members of GPC UK. The full membership can be found on the [BMA website](#). A summary of these voting members is below:

- 62 based in England (all sit on GPC England in various capacities).
- 6 based in Wales.
- 5 based in Scotland.
- 2 based in Northern Ireland.
- 6 voting members of the sessional GPs committee, though only 4 seats are guaranteed for the sessional GPs committee. The two other members sit on the committee through another route.
- 2 GP trainees.

GPs in England had 83% of voting seats this session, whereas both trainees and Northern Ireland had less than 3% of the votes each.

#### Planned reform

In recognition of the LMCUK motion a revised proposal was drawn up in consultation with the six chairs of the component committees (4 nations/Sessional/Registrars) and the Representation Policy Group, before then being discussed and approved at GPCUK on 14 December 2023 following which amended standing orders were approved at GPCUK on 14 March 2024.

Following the approval by GPCUK, the proposal has been approved by the BMA's Organisation Committee. However, its implementation is still subject to approval by the BMA's UK Council on 16 May and then final approval by the representative body at ARM on 23-24 June 2024. This is required because it necessitates a change to the BMA's Articles and Byelaws, which requires approval at ARM. If approved at ARM, this new form of GPCUK will first meet on 17 October 2024.



Remit

GPCUK approved a change to the committees formal remit to the following: “To deal with pan-UK matters affecting component general practitioner committees across the UK.”

This follows on from the below remit being approved at GPC UK in March 2022:

“That GPC UK should continue to delegate executive functions, as appropriate, to its six component committees.

That the functions of GPC UK should be to:

- a) provide a governance check for its six component committees
- b) ensure the pursuit of pan-UK policy only, as defined by UK LMC Conference
- c) fulfil its BMA remit as the over-arching branch of practice for GPs – including inter-branch liaison
- d) aside from Representation, relinquish its existing policy groups to GPC England<sup>1</sup>
- e) act as an information and ideas exchange between component committees.”

Membership

The proposed membership of the committee is as set out below and reduces the voting membership to 45. This proposal aims to ensure equal representation from the executives of all the six component committees, and to avoid it becoming a purely executive committee, the proposal is for all the seats from UK LMC conference and ARM to be retained. This would ensure a nearly exact equal balance between executive and members elected directly by representatives.

The Chief Officers of the BMA (non-voting):

- The Chair of the Representative Body (ex officio)
- The Chair of Council (ex officio)
- Deputy Chair of Council (ex officio)
- The Treasurer (ex officio).

Voting members:

- Three members from each of the executives / officer teams of the six component committees of GPCUK, with one being the chair from each committee.
- The Chair of the UK Conference of LMCs (ex officio)
- The Deputy Chair of UK Conference of LMCs (ex officio)
- Ten Representatives elected by the Annual Representative Meeting (ARM)
- Seven Representatives elected by the UK LMC conference, one of whom must never have previously held membership of the GPC in any capacity.
- One Early Career GP from the UK LMC Conference
- GPC UK Representation Policy Group Lead
- GPC UK Education & Training Policy Group Lead
- A representative of prison GPs providing NHS Primary Medical Services in prisons or other secure environments.
- One Representative appointed by the Medical Women’s Federation
- Two Representatives appointed by the Medical Practitioners’ Union

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<sup>1</sup> GPCUK has retained two policy groups; Representation Policy Group & Education and Training Policy Group. Also, following a restructure of GPC England’s policy groups it now has its own versions of these groups, as part of its seven policy groups.

- One Representative appointed by the British International Doctors' Association

Non-voting members (One Representative unless stated):

- Appointed by the BMA Consultants Committee
- Appointed by the BMA Public Health Medicine Committee
- Appointed by the BMA Junior Doctors Committee
- Appointed by the BMA Staff and Associate Specialists Committee
- Appointed by the British Dental Association
- Appointed by the Royal College of General Practitioners (Two representatives)

Committee Chair

GPCUK also agreed to amend the eligibility of those who can stand to be chair of GPCUK, so that all six of the committee chairs can stand to GPCUK chair and deputy chair, whereas before only the four national chairs were eligible.

**25 April 2024**