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# BMA

Cymru Wales

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## Minister for Health and Social Services

27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Minister

As GPs across Wales, we are writing to ask you to take action in response to the BMA's Save Our Surgeries campaign.


General Practice is the foundation of a high-quality, cost-effective health system. However, general practice in Wales is under significant and growing strain. GP numbers are declining, demand is rising, and practices are struggling to recruit and retain staff whilst facing an unprecedented rise in expenses.

We are asking for the Welsh Government to:

- 1. Commit to funding** general practice properly, restoring the proportion of the NHS Wales budget spent in general practice to the historic level of 8.7% within three years with an aspiration to increase to nearer 11% in the next five years.
- 2. Invest in the workforce** of General Practice to allow the implementation of a national standard for a maximum number of patients that GPs can reasonably deal with during a working day to maintain safe and high-quality service delivery.
- 3. Produce a GP workforce strategy** to ensure that Wales trains, recruits and retains enough GPs to move toward the OECD average number of GPs per 1000 people. This must feature a renewed focus on retaining existing GPs and tackling the problems driving them out of the profession.
- 4. Address staff wellbeing** by producing a long-term strategy to improve the physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing of the workforce.

Unless urgent action is taken to address workload, workforce and wellbeing, the service is at risk. This crisis should be a concern to us all.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Gareth Oelmann**

Chair, Welsh GP Committee

**This letter has been signed and supported by 425 GPs from across Wales**

### Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol (Cymru)/National director (Wales):

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