



**“General practice is broken, and we are calling on all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to pledge support for all actions needed to resuscitate general practice, without which the service is likely to go the same way as NHS dentistry.” says LLRLMC**

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### **Immediate Release**

Today Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee (1) has sent a letter to all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates asking them to pledge (2), that if they are elected as an MP, they will support action needed to resuscitate General Practices. Within a few days this letter was signed by 267 GPs and other general practice supporters.

Dr Grant Ingrams (General Practitioner and Chair of LLRLMC) said “General Practice has been broken by deliberate underfunding and undermining by successive governments. General Practice is the bedrock of the NHS providing the vast majority of healthcare. Government policies have starved practices of the resources needed to provide the quality of care our patients need and deserve.”

General Practice funding has reduced by £660million per year (11%) over the past 5 years alone, and the populations has gone up by 18% since 2015. General practices now receive only £107.07 per year for each patient, who have on average seven contacts each with their practice. Dr Grant

Ingrams commented: "Funding has been reduced year after year, at the same time as the population, patient health needs, and complexity of care has increased. Practices now receive only 30p per day to cover the whole of each patient's needs. This is less than the cost of an apple."

"The government has failed to deliver the 6,000 additional GPs promised in 2019, and indeed there are now 2,000 fewer fully qualified GPs. Every GP in Leicester City now looks after 720 additional patients, in Leicestershire West 324, and in Leicestershire East and Rutland 432. If GPs only registered a safe number of patients, this would leave a third of a million people in LLR without a GP. The government have also forced an increasing amount of the general practice budget to be used for non-GP clinical staff, which is making the long-term situation worse and not better."

"There has been no significant NHS funded development of GP premises for many years, and many general practices are working from antiquated buildings not fit to provide modern services."

"We are calling on all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to pledge to support the actions needed to resuscitate general practices. Our patients need serious investment in GP services and premises, reduction in micromanagement and bureaucracy, together with support to modernise and use IT at a rate acceptable to our patients."

"The LMC is concerned that following a 99.2% vote against the current GP Contract, GPs feel the only way to protect services for our patients is to take industrial action. The BMA is holding a non-statutory ballot which will close on 29 June 2024 following which it is highly likely that practices will be taking action(4). All GP colleagues I talk to do not want to take industrial action, but they feel the options left to them is either to do this or watch general practice fail."

Dr Grant Ingrams summarised "Unless the next government reverses the steep decline of general practices it is probable, similar to Dentistry, by the end of the next parliament there will no longer be a universal general practice service in England. GPs are on your side."

Ends

**Further Information:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

- 1) The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee is an independent elected representative body with a statutory function to represent NHS GPs in this area. First established in 1911, they currently work under the NHS Act 2006.
- 2) See letter attached
- 3) All statistics and data are from NHS Executive or Government sources.
- 4) The BMA is providing information and material for patients to use at [GPs Are On Your Side \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk/gps-are-on-your-side)