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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

16th July 2024

Annwyl Cabinet Secretary


Just over a year ago, you attended the launch of the BMA's Save Our Surgeries campaign, which urged the Welsh Government to take immediate action to safeguard the GP workforce, welfare and well-being. Since then, while we are pleased to see you recognise our colleagues working in secondary care with pay uplifts, we are increasingly concerned that the perilous situation facing General Practitioners in Wales has worsened.

As set out in the Save our Surgeries campaign – we are still calling on 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.

Urgent Government action is overdue - GPs in Wales cannot afford to wait another year for general practice to be prioritised. Without stable General practice, the NHS in Wales will fail. Our message is clear - Save our surgeries.

Yours sincerely



Dr Gareth Oelmann

Chair, Welsh GP Committee

This letter has been signed by 704 GPs from across Wales

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

Rachel Podolak

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Registered as a Company limited by Guarantee. Registered No. 8848 England.

Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP.

Listed as a Trade Union under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.

