

Focus on the 2024 Premises Cost Directions (PCDs)

Issued by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Premises Cost Directions (PCDs) set out how payments should be calculated and made to GP contractors in respect of premises costs for those GPs in premises they do not own and rent from others.

The GPC England (GPCE) premises policy team have been in discussions with NHS England and DHSC over proposed updates to the 2013 PCDs for the best part of the last decade. The Minister for Primary Care, Andrea Leadsom MP, published the updated PCDs on 9 May 2024. The GPCE premises policy team continue to engage in discussions with NHSE and DHSC to iteratively review the new directions.

There are three main areas of change:

- Commissioners will be able to award improvement grant funding of up to 100% of the project value (up from 66% previously), and the permitted maximum value of such grants will also be increased – giving commissioners the ability to fund more significant improvements to GP premises, if the ICB has the resource.
- Changes to the abatement period (during which revenue costs for commissioners are reduced, to take account of investment) and to the guaranteed use period associated with grants (where the GP contractor must ensure the premises are used for delivering NHS primary medical services for a minimum time period), providing positive improvements for GPs.
- New commissioner powers (subject to capital resource) to support GP contractors who may wish to retire, but who cannot find a successor partner from within the practice (“last person standing”).

There are further proposals which require funding that have not been agreed, but GPCE continues to push for further improvements in GP premises policy.

