

BMA House
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9JP

E publicaffairs@bma.org.uk

Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care

Sent via email

12 November 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

I write following your comments in the Budget Debate on 05 November 2024 and the Chancellor's comments to the Treasury Select Committee on 06 November 2024. I note from your response to Dr Luke Evans MP in the House, that you are "well aware of the pressures" that general practice is facing and "will take those representations seriously".

At the Treasury Select Committee, the Chancellor remarked "the Health Secretary [will be] making allocations in the usual way for GPs." Given this statement by the Chancellor, I would urge you to confirm unequivocally that GP practices will not bear the burden of hikes from the Budgetary implications, but that a proportion of the £22.6 billion provided to your department in the Autumn Statement will resource this. It is crucial that you deliver this reassurance as swiftly as possible.

GPs and their practices across the country are reeling at the cruel anomaly of on the one hand, being denied funding to cover the Employers' NICs rise, NMW and NLW increases because – according to the Treasury – we are "private sector". Yet equally ineligible for any reimbursements open to small private sector companies because – according to the Treasury – we are "public sector". This unhelpful paradox will ultimately lead to NHS GP practices being forced to cut services and cut staff – impacting upon patient care. An early survey of over 100 constituent practices from one concerned LMC has reported over two thirds of constituent practices would need to make redundancies to remain viable, with over 70% planning to reduce both appointments and services. *

We must do everything in our power to support GPs to meet the increasing demands placed upon them, not add to the extensive burden they are already facing. For some NHS GP practices, this will result in them having to close their doors entirely.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer
Chair, BMA GP Committee England

* *Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Local Medical Committees constituent practice survey results, 09 November 2024*

Co-chief executive officers: Neeta Major & Rachel Podolak

Registered as a Company limited by Guarantee. Registered No. 8848 England.
Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP.

