



Royal College of
General Practitioners

Layla Moran MP
Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee
House of Commons
Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

16 December 2024

Dear Layla Moran MP

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Health and Social Care Select Committee to discuss the 10 Year Health Plan.

As discussed with the committee, moving care from hospitals to communities has great potential to allow patients to access more joined up care closer to home. General practice is ideally placed to be at the core of a revitalised, well-resourced primary and community care sector. However, this shift will need to be carefully managed to ensure it delivers for patients, and this must include an associated increase of resources for general practice. More details on this can be found in the [RCGP submission to the Government's consultation on the 10 Year Health Plan](#).

As well as sharing our response, I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify one of the points I raised during the session. While discussing the challenges of hosting and training all the roles currently set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and the need to ensure that all healthcare undergraduate students have more generalism training in their courses, I listed Physician Associates students alongside other roles such as GP trainees, nursing students and clinical pharmacist students. It has been raised with me that this may be interpreted as the RCGP supporting the use of PAs in general practice.


For the avoidance of doubt, I would like to make it clear that the RCGP opposes any role for PAs in general practice. This position was reached following a vote at our UK Council in September 2024, following a member survey that found 50% of all respondents reporting being aware of specific examples of patient safety being compromised by the work of PAs, with common themes including misdiagnosis and

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diagnostic errors by PAs, inappropriate prescribing and management, and lack of communication to patients and GPs. We are also clear that at a time of significant GP workforce challenges, funding allocations, resources and learning opportunities within general practice must be prioritised for the training and retention of GPs. More details on the RCGP position on Physician Associates can be found [here](#).

Thanks again for the chance to discuss these important issues with the Committee and I look forward to seeing how you progress with this work. If you have any further questions or need any other information from the College, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kamila Hawthorne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Professor Kamila Hawthorne
Chair of Council
Royal College of General Practitioners