



# Department of Health & Social Care

*From Stephen Kinnock MP  
Minister of State for Care  
39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

Layla Moran MP  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

20 December 2024

Dear Layla,

## **Announcement of Funding Uplift and GP Contract Consultation**

General practice is the cornerstone of our health system, playing a vital role in supporting our communities, managing wider pressures in the NHS and playing a core role in providing care closer to home.

Over summer, we took action to address concerns around GP unemployment. We wrote to the profession four weeks ago to explain that we understood the concerns and financial pressures facing general practice, and that we were committed to addressing them. Today, Secretary of State has written to the profession with an update on the funding uplift for general practice. This reaffirms our commitment to the ongoing challenges faced by GPs and the wider primary care sector during this demanding period.

Despite the £22billion black hole this Government was left with, we wanted to take the first step towards the 'left shift' we have promised. We have carried out a thorough review of the NHS budget for 2025-26, including the funding going to each sector and we are pleased to confirm that the funding uplift we are proposing for general practice in 2025-26 will be £889million, representing a 7.2% cash growth (estimated at c.4.8% real terms growth). This significant investment underscores the government's commitment to progressing our health mission and fulfilling our Manifesto pledge to deliver a neighbourhood health service. We fully recognise the financial and operational pressures that general practice has faced, and this additional funding reflects difficult but necessary decisions to prioritise primary care.

We will be consulting with the General Practitioners Committee in England (GPC England) of the British Medical Association (BMA) on the 2025-26 GP contract from this week, and will consider a range of proposed policy changes. These will be announced in the usual way following the close of the consultation in 2025. We are committed to working collaboratively with the GPC England on this and future reforms to ensure that the needs of general practice remain at the forefront of our healthcare ambitions.

Allocating more resources to primary care, is an important first step towards the 'left shift', ensuring that it receives a greater proportion of NHS funding. The Prime Minister has been clear that there can be no funding without reform. The funding uplift will drive forward important reforms that will support both the profession and patients, by preventing the biggest killers, improving continuity of care - particularly for the elderly or those with long-term or complex conditions - and alleviating pressure on secondary care, to support elective recovery. The changes will also support the government's commitment to reducing waiting times, ensuring 92% of patients wait no longer than 18 weeks for elective treatment by the end of this parliament. For the profession, the reforms will tackle inefficiencies by cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, including reducing targets and increasing flexibility in ARRS recruitment. Recommendations from the Red Tape Challenge, set to be reported on in the new year, will further streamline processes and free up time for GPs to provide patient care. Together, these measures aim to create a more efficient, sustainable system that benefits both patients and the profession, driving meaningful change across the NHS.

The actions we are taking reflect our dedication to increasing funding for general practice while laying the groundwork for long-term reform.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we will update the House on this via a written statement at the next available opportunity.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Kinnock', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

**STEPHEN KINNOCK**