



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Dr J Braber

Dr Braber was a GP in Cumbria who sadly passed away on the 28th of November. We offer our condolences to his family, colleagues, and patients.

Please [see our website](#) for a range of wellbeing and support services available to doctors and practice staff or get in touch with us. The [Practitioner Health Mental Wellbeing App is also now available to any member of the primary care team](#). You can register for the app using the access code PC2022 and you will then be sent joining details.

GP appointment and workforce data

The latest [GP appointment](#) and [workforce data](#) was published recently. There are nearly 1,900 fewer full time fully qualified GPs since September 2015, yet the number of face-to-face appointments is going up and show the highest level of GP appointments on record.

For the first time, the [appointment data](#) also include data at practice level. There are concerns over the data being published this way. There are bound be many differences in the way practices operate and how staff provide care for their local communities - none of these nuances have been taken into account. Rather than this being a useful tool to aid patient choice, it is naming and shaming practices when the morale of dedicated staff is at rock bottom. Ultimately, such data should be used to support, not punish practices.

Read the full statement by Kieran Sharrock, GPCE Deputy Chair, [here](#) and the pressures in general practice [here](#). You can also read BMA guidance on [Safe working in general practice](#) which is designed to enable practices to make decisions as to how to prioritise care, and deprioritise certain aspects of their day to day activity, within the confines of the GMS contract.

Autumn statement 2022

The BMA has created a [briefing](#) analysing the impact of the Government's autumn fiscal statement on doctors. The statement details the UK government's plans for tax and public spending over the next five years. The main things that will impact doctors are:

- Commitment to publish a workforce plan in 2023, including independently verified forecasts for the number of doctors and other health professionals over the next 15 years - which the BMA has been campaigning for.
- GP contractors and other employers will face higher costs due to increasing staff costs (frozen employer NICs thresholds and higher minimum wages) and other costs such as energy bills.
- The Department of Health and NHSE were promised a small amount of additional money for day-to-day spending, but resources will still be extremely tight.
- Changes to personal tax policy will reduce the take home pay of all workers, including doctors.
- Overall, the cost-of-living crisis and dire economic picture will increase poverty and impact health, increasing pressure on the health system.

Read more about budget and fiscal events [here](#).





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LMC Roadshows - Survival of General Practice

This is the final reminder to book onto the LMC Roadshows taking place across Lancs and Cumbria. The events will take place from 18.30 – 21.00 with food available from 18.30. You can see the [flyers for the roadshows here](#). Please let [Rebecca](#) know if you would like to attend.

Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism

In a recent [NHS England Primary Care Bulletin](#) it references 'The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism'. This is one form of training available, but to clarify, undertaking this specific training is NOT mandatory. There is a requirement under the [Health and Care Act 2022](#), that all practices ensure their staff have training on a Disability and Autism appropriate to their role.

The Secretary of State for Health is required to set out a Code of Practice detailing the requirements. This has not yet been published and is expected in 2023, until then practices should not be pressured to undertake specific training and should decide what training is appropriate for their staff.

GP Trainee visas

The BMA continues to call for a permanent solution to barriers to staying and working in the UK currently faced by trainee GPs as they approach completion of their training. In October 2022, the BMA GPC wrote to Home Secretary Suella Braverman, to urge her to act and work with colleagues in the Department of Health and Social Care to deliver a permanent solution.

Conservative MP Matt Warman led a [Westminster Hall Debate](#) on international doctors' visas on 2 November, during which he called on the Home Office and Department of Health to work together on a lasting solution to the issue in the best interests of the NHS workforce and patient care. Ahead of the debate, GPCE Deputy Chair Kieran Sharrock and members of the Public Affairs team briefed Mr Warman, and he drew on the work of the BMA on a number of occasions. During the debate, Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick gave the clearest indication yet that the Government was willing to look at umbrella sponsorship as a potential solution.

BMA GPC have since [written](#) to the Minister directly on the issue and have made clear the BMA's willingness to be included in conversations with the Home Office on this.

Pooled code practices warned to check for significant reimbursement shortfalls

Practices with a pooled list are being advised to check for significant shortfalls in reimbursement since the transition from Open Exeter to PCSE. An explanatory letter is available to download [here](#).

Managing inappropriate workload

The LMC has templates/ documents to help you manage inappropriate workload [on our website](#).

If there are any templates you would like the LMC to create to support you with workload, please get in touch.

