



Update from the Consortium of Lancashire & Cumbria LMCs

Tuesday 7th October 2025

Haircuts, Health, and Hollow Comparisons

Dear Colleagues,

Lots of things happening in the world around us, some newsworthy and some not so newsworthy. Speaking of some less newsworthy issues that seemed to have received disproportionate airtime was a quote from our 'very in the know' Secretary of State for Health and Social care. Apparently, Mr Streeting believes booking a GP appointment should be as easy as getting a haircut.

Now, I don't know about you, but last time I checked, my barber didn't diagnose cancer, manage multi-morbidity, prescribe anticoagulants, chase missing hospital letters, or deal with three safeguarding referrals before lunch. He just cuts my hair - and quite neatly, I must say!

Perhaps we, in the GP profession, have misunderstood all along? Maybe the future of the NHS lies in a *walk-in barbershop model*? "Next please!" Where we offer a quick trim, a statin, and a flu jab, all before the next fade. No follow-up, no lab results, and certainly no letters from the ICB or secondary care, asking us to do someone else's job.

Of course, there's a certain charm in the simplicity of Wes's analogy. If only patients came every 6 weeks, paid upfront, and didn't demand an emergency haircut on Friday afternoon, simply because their fringe looked "a bit urgent today."

Sarcasm aside, his comments do remind us of something important: the public narrative about general practice has become dangerously detached from reality. Politicians may reach for easy soundbites, but it's we who see the daily human cost: the delays in secondary care, the underfunding, the rising demand, and the quiet professionalism that keeps the NHS upright despite it all.

So, while Westminster debates how to make GP access more like a haircut, we'll keep doing what we do best: offering continuity, compassion, and clinical care under impossible conditions - no scissors required.

Let's hold our heads high. Let's remind the public - and indeed those who govern - that the real comparison isn't with a barber's chair, but with the backbone of the NHS. Without us holding the fractured and crumbling foundations together, the system would collapse quicker than any politician could say "Precision pompadour with a parietal parting".

Have a good week!

Regards,

Dr Adam Janjua, LMC CEO





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LMC Partnership Agreement Drafting Service

The LMC has seen a rise in queries from practices regarding partnership issues and disputes. Many of these situations could be avoided if practices had an up-to-date and well-drafted partnership agreement in place.

We strongly recommend that all practices not only have a formal partnership agreement but also review their existing agreements regularly to ensure they remain fit for purpose and accurately reflect the current intentions of all partners.

To support practices with this, the LMC offers a dedicated Partnership Agreement Drafting Service led by [Abi Askew](#). For [more information see here](#).

BMA GPCE in dispute over unsafe contract changes

Last week, on Wednesday 1 October, GPC England entered into dispute with the Government over contract changes that are unsafe.

The Government, DHSC and NHSE have doubled down on unfulfilled promises in terms of necessary safeguards being in place for online consultation requests and GP Connect (Update Record) write access, and GPC England has [written to the Secretary of State for Health](#) to confirm the dispute.

The 1 October contract changes oblige practices to keep online consultations tools available to patients throughout core hours (08:00 –18:30 weekdays) for non-urgent appointment requests. They also require practices to switch on access to 'update record' (write access) via GP Connect for other NHS providers.

To end this dispute, GPC England is calling on the Government to request NHS England to urgently:

- Provide written assurance that no breach notices will be issued should a practice, citing safety reasons, temporarily divert online requests to telephones and walk-in, due to patient demand overwhelming the available practice clinical capacity
- Meet with GPCE and online providers to secure solutions for their platforms which preclude the submission of urgent online consultation requests
- Work with the JGPITC to reach solutions which resolve their outstanding concerns, as articulated in their written statement on [GP Connect](#), and provide practices with indemnity cover for data breaches by other NHS and third-party providers

GPCE have also asked the Government to demonstrably focus on GMS contract renewal, with transparency regarding funding envelopes for the GMS 2026/27 financial year; for new GMS; and for novel contracts within the 10 Year Health Plan, and swiftly confirming the roadmap regarding timelines for such renewal and investment.

Watch this [clip](#) from the Labour Party conference with the GPC England Chair, Dr Katie Bramall, explaining why GPs are entering dispute with Government.

Read more about the contract changes and why GPC England is in dispute with the Government. You'll also find links to guidance, template letters to use and posters and graphics to download [here](#).





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Implementing the contract changes – GPCE guidance

Being in dispute does NOT mean practices can ignore the Contractual changes implemented on 1 October 2025, nor can GPC England, or the LMC, recommend or endorse such an approach. To ensure compliance with new contractual requirements in the [25/26 contract agreement in March 2025](#), and to avoid the risk of potentially receiving a remedial breach notice from the ICB, practices must:

- have an online consultation tool, which is available to registered patients throughout core hours (8am – 6.30pm), to allow them to make non urgent / routine appointments requests, medication queries and administrative requests and
- ensure GP Connect (Update Record) write access functionality is enabled.

Guidance

[A range of guidance is available on the BMA website](#), where you can also download the BMA's [Practice Charter](#) as an accompaniment to NHS England's "You & Your GP Practice" document, and [template letters to send to the ICB regarding online consultations](#). Other guidance include:

- [Regulatory changes for 2025/26](#)
- [Managing patient care safely from 1 October](#)
- [FAQs for 1 October 2025 online consultations](#)
- [Guidance on demand and capacity](#)
- [Setting up online consultations and appointments](#)
- [GP Connect Update Record Summary](#)
- [Waiting lists in General Practice](#)
- [Choosing an online GP consultation platform](#)
- [GPonline consultations poster](#)

If you are not a BMA member, [join](#) so that you can vote in any potential future ballot. Also ensure your own membership is up to date.

Access all the guidance: [Campaigning around GP contracts in England](#)

GP Premises Survey 2025: Summary of Findings

The BMA's latest survey of nearly 2,000 GPs and Practice Managers reveals serious concerns about the state of GP premises in England. Half of respondents say their buildings are unsuitable for current needs, and over 80% say they won't meet future demands. Space shortages are affecting staff wellbeing, training, and the integration of new roles under Primary Care Networks within practice teams. A quarter of respondents reported having been invoiced with inaccurate service charges and less than half of these described the charges as 'resolved'.

There were concerning reports from tenants in NHSPS and CHP buildings about incorrect invoices, including billing for lift maintenance where there are no lifts, being charged for snow clearance when it had not snowed and mould growing in the reception area. Thank you to everyone who completed and promoted the survey it has helped to build a clear picture which will help the BMA call for change. Please find the full results and recommendations [here](#).





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Power in Numbers: Uniting Sessional GPs for Change

Join the BMA for a free national virtual event on Thursday, 16 October 2025, from 19:00 to 20:30, open to all sessional GPs – BMA members or not. This is your chance to connect, share concerns, and help shape a fairer future for sessional GPs. Hear from newly elected representatives, get updates on the DDRB and 10-Year Plan, and explore support and private practice opportunities. Stand together to make real change – [register now](#).

Representation of GP Educators working for NHS England

The BMA are aware that a number of GPs that work for NHS England as educators, training programme directors and associate deans are concerned about what the future might bring with the proposed abolition of NHS England. The Medical Academic Staff Committee has reached out to the NHS England Local Negotiating Committee and the Chair has offered to meet with those affected and update them on developments to the extent that he is aware. If you would be interested in taking part in that meeting and being contacted by MASC and the LNC about the issues please e-mail info.masc@bma.org.uk with your details.

SDF Funding to Support Skilled Worker Visa Licences (Lancs & SC Only)

Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB has confirmed that a limited amount of System Development Funding (SDF) has been allocated to support General Practices and Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in obtaining Skilled Worker Visa Sponsorship Licences during the 2025/26 financial year.

To distribute this funding, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are now being invited for reimbursement of costs associated with skilled worker visa sponsorship (excluding certificate costs).

The EOI process is open to all PCNs and practices across Lancashire and South Cumbria that have recruited — or plan to recruit — skilled workers requiring sponsorship to work in the UK during 2025/26. EOIs will remain open until the available funding is fully allocated or until the end of the financial year, whichever comes first.

Please note that, due to limited funding, submission of an EOI does not guarantee approval. Successful applicants will be required to provide documentary evidence of fees paid before any reimbursement is made.

To submit an Expression of Interest, please complete the form via the link below:
[Expression of Interest Form](#)

Help Us Grow Our Audience

We understand that you are busy and are likely to receive many emails on a daily basis. However it is important for you to receive communications from us because we can help and support you.

We know there are many colleagues who do not receive our brieflet, so please help us by sharing this with your team and letting us know to add them to our distribution lists.





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Morecambe Bay PCC Event

MBPCC are delighted to host with UHMBT the next Big Conversation Reboot Event on **Thursday 16th October 2025**.

The event aims to bring together colleagues from both the Trust and General Practice, to share current topics and facilitate collaborative discussions. Below is an overview of some of the proposed topics and themes at the next event.

- Community Diagnostic Clinic - Barrow
- NHS 10-Year Plan and NHIP
- Access improvement initiatives, including the GP coordinator role in Switchboard and Direct numbers from Whole System Workflow Program work

Event Details

- Time: 19:00 (arrival from 18:30)
- Location: Crooklands Hotel, Crooklands, Cumbria, LA7 7NW
- Food & beverages provided
- Teams option available

If you are interested in joining the event or would like further information, please contact: h.donegan@nhs.net.

General Practice Alert State (GPAS)

You can see the latest SitRep results [on our website](#).

Submitting your results is crucial. When we don't receive your data, it limits our ability to present a strong, accurate picture to system partners. This, in turn, weakens our case when we advocate for more resources and support for your practice.

Your input makes a difference — thank you for taking the time to help us fight for you.

Please let us know if you are a Practice Manager and do not receive the GPAS input emails. If someone at your practice needs to be added to the distribution list, email enquiries@nwlmc.org. Submission links are sent out every Tuesday and Wednesday.

