



Lancashire & Cumbria Consortium of Local Medical Committees

449-451 Garstang Road (Ambulance Service HQ), Broughton, Preston, PR3 5LN

Enquires@nwlmc.org

01772 863806

To
Ed Tallis
Director of Place
North East and North Cumbria NHS

17th October 2023

Dear Ed,

I hope you are keeping well. I am writing to you in my capacity as the CEO of the Lancashire and Cumbria Consortium of Local Medical Committees, on behalf of the GP practices within our patch. As you will no doubt be aware our primary purpose is to advocate for the interests of our member practices and ensure the highest quality of care for our patients.

I would like to draw your attention to a matter of significant concern that has been raised by our member practices regarding the Quality Contract and Local Enhanced Service (LES/LIS) payments provided to our local practices. Over the years, there has been a noticeable discrepancy between the annual increments in these payments and the rate of inflation. In fact, there have been no uplifts at all for well over six years. Since 2019 staff wages have increased by almost thirty percent along with a sharp increase in practice expenses. As a result, our practices have faced financial challenges that hinder our ability to maintain the high standards of care that our patients deserve.

It is essential to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by our GP practices to the healthcare system in North Cumbria. Our dedicated healthcare professionals work tirelessly to provide comprehensive, patient-centred care to our community, often going above and beyond to meet the healthcare needs of our patients.

However, the failure to adjust the Quality Contract and LES/LIS payments in line with inflation has created financial strains that have a direct impact on our practices' ability to invest in staff development and training. Furthermore, it affects our practices' ability to attract and retain highly qualified medical professionals, especially GP partners, which is crucial for maintaining the quality of care we provide.

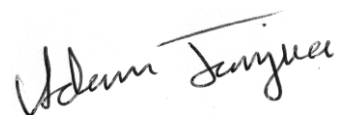
To address this issue and ensure the sustainability of our GP practices, we respectfully request that the ICB **consider a 28% uplift** in the Quality Contract and LES/LIS payments **backdated to April 2023**. This increment is proposed to compensate for the historical lack of yearly adjustments to keep pace with inflation and to support the long-term viability of our local healthcare services.

We understand that these are challenging times for the healthcare system, but we believe that this increase is a necessary step to safeguard the quality of care provided by our GP practices. We are committed to working collaboratively with the ICB and other stakeholders to find mutually beneficial solutions that prioritize the health and well-being of our patients.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further and explore potential avenues for implementation. Our aim is to ensure that our GP practices can continue to deliver the highest standards of care, adapt to evolving healthcare needs, and thrive in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing issue. We anticipate a constructive dialogue and remain open to further discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Adam Janjua
Chief Executive Officer,
Consortium of Lancashire and Cumbria Local Medical Committees