

**NEW DATA SHOWS GPs IN THE NORTHWEST BELIEVE PATIENT SAFETY AT RISK**

* Data from the new campaign - *Rebuild General Practice* - poll shows nearly 9 in 10 GPs in the Northwest fear for patient safety
* GP shortages and too little time for appointments were cited as the main factors putting patients at risk

**[XX/XX] TODAY**: GPs from across the Northwest and Great Britain are calling for support to Rebuild General Practice - as new polling shows that nearly 9 in 10 GPs in the Northwest fear patients aren't always safe at their surgeries and nearly 7 out of 10 GPs in the Northwest see this risk increasing over time.

The campaign, called *Rebuild General Practice*, comes at a time of ‘crisis’ when appointment numbers are peaking post-pandemic, while GP workforce numbers are on the decline.

The poll (of 1,395 GPs from across Great Britain and 116 in the Northwest) found that:

* **Nearly 9 in 10** GPs fear patients aren't always safe at their surgeries
* **Nearly 7 out of 10 GPs** feel the risk to ‘patient safety’ is increasing
* GPs cited staff shortages and too little time for appointments as the main factors putting patients at risk -
	+ **86% of GPs** stated they didn’t have enough time with patients
	+ **77% of GPs** said GP shortages were putting patient safety at risk

**Dr Kieran Sharrock launched the campaign in March with a plea for support to rebuild general practice:**

*“The scale of the exodus from General Practice in the last few years scares me. The UK Government must act soon to stop the bleed, otherwise every family who relies on the NHS will find their basic healthcare needs under threat.”*

*“GPs are rushing headlong for the exit, and the UK Government is planning another review in England. This is fiddling while Rome burns.*

*“I implore our political leaders as the cost-of-living crisis bites: if you raise taxes to pay for NHS improvements yet fail to stem the flow of GPs out of local surgeries, standards will drop, waiting times will rise, and you will face a wall of public anger. We must rebuild General Practice, together, now.”*

GPs from across England, Scotland, and Wales are calling for more support to Rebuild General Practice which must include:

1. **Recruitment:** The U.K. Government delivering on its commitment of an additional 6,000 GPs in England by 2024
2. **Retention**: Tackling the factors driving GPs out of the profession such as burn out
3. **Safety:** A plan to reduce GP workload and in turn improve patient safety

Support #RebuildGP

[www.rebuildgp.co.uk](http://www.rebuildgp.co.uk)

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**-ENDS-**

**Media contacts**

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**About Rebuild General Practice**

We represent GPs from across England, Scotland, and Wales, and are calling for support to Rebuild General Practice.

Patient safety must come first, and patients should be receiving the best care possible. To do this, we need a proper plan for recruiting, developing, and retaining greater number of GPs.

This campaign is funded by the British Medical Association and GPDF on behalf of the General Practice community.

**Polling**

An online survey was conducted between 5th & 10th March 2022 to gather views and opinions of frontline GPs from across Great Britain

A link to participate was issued by BMA to 20,000 GPs

The survey was independently conducted by James Law Research Associates Ltd.

1395 GPs took part (a 7% response rate – above average participation) resulting in a maximum margin of error of +/- 2.7% (at 95% confidence interval). 116 GPs in the Northwest took part in the survey. Note: base numbers will vary as not everyone answered every question.

All aspects of the survey were conducted in line with the Market Research Society code of conduct and guidelines in relation to independent research and in line with GDPR.

**Key stats**

**Northwest**

* Only 15% of GPs the Northwest of England believe that their practice is safe for patients at all times
* 68% of GPs in the Northwest believe the risk to patient safety is increasing
* 88% of GPs in the Northwest do **not** believe they have adequate time with each patient to provide a thorough diagnosis and therefore ensure patient safety
* 90% of GPs in the Northwest have felt anxiety, stress, or depression in last year

**England**

* The NHS in England has lost almost 2,000 full-time equivalent GPs since 2015. ([BMA "Pressures in general practice data analysis"](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/pressures/pressures-in-general-practice-data-analysis#:~:text=GP%20practices%20across%20the%20country,knock%2Don%20effects%20for%20patients.))
* In just one year (2021) the number of fully qualified GPs decreased by more than 700. ([BMA "Pressures in general practice data analysis"](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/pressures/pressures-in-general-practice-data-analysis#:~:text=GP%20practices%20across%20the%20country,knock%2Don%20effects%20for%20patients.))
* General practice delivered an unprecedented 366.7 million appointments in 2021 – around 6.5 for every person in the population. ([NHS Digital](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/appointments-in-general-practice); [GP Online](https://www.gponline.com/general-practice-delivered-unprecedented-367m-appointments-2021/article/1738580))
* The majority of appointments are delivered in person with 60% GP appointments face-to-face and 36% over the telephone in January 2022. Doctors are seeing 46 patients a day. 25 is deemed safe. ([NHS Digital](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/appointments-in-general-practice/january-2022))