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**REBUILD GENERAL PRACTICE**

**Q&A**

**ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN:**

**Q. What is the ‘Rebuild General Practice’ campaign?**

**A.** We represent GPs from across Great Britain – supported by the BMA and GPDF – and we’re asking for support to rebuild our fractured primary care system. We are launching this campaign because General Practice is in crisis and patient safety is at risk.

**Q. What is the crisis in General Practice?**

**A.** Demand for GP appointments is outstripping supply. There are simply not enough GPs.  Patients should be able to consult their GP when needed. GPs want to deliver this, but the system is in crisis. We’re delivering more appointments than ever before, but the long-standing workforce crisis coupled with growing patient demands is creating an unsafe and unmanageable situation for primary care. This is leading to patient frustration, GP burnout, and at its worst, a lower standard of care.

**Q. Why do you think that patient safety is at risk?**

**A.** We are GPs working in England, Scotland and Wales and we know this to be the case. A recent poll of more than 1300 GPs found:

* Nearly 9 in 10 GPs fear patients aren't always safe at their surgeries
* 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

**Q. What do GPs want to see happen?**

**A.**  Our plan will deliver the general practice service that patients and staff deserve

Rebuilding General Practice will:

* Give GPs across the UK the time back to deliver the quality of care they want to be able to give patients
* While ensuring that patients are cared for by the right General Practice team member
* Resolve the difficulties many patients are facing in getting timely GP appointments
* Benefit the NHS as a whole by alleviating pressure on hospitals and help to tackle the backlog which existed long before the pandemic

**Q. How will the campaign achieve this?**

**A.** GPs and patients all want the same thing: to give and receive the best healthcare. To achieve this we need to rebuild general practice. In 2019, the UK Government promised to deliver a workforce plan for General Practice and the NHS in England. In 2022, we are still waiting.

So, we are calling for:

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

**Q. Why are you launching this campaign now?**

**A**.  This is a national emergency and GPs need support now to rebuild general practice. General Practice was created to provide care to communities from cradle to grave. This fundamental principle is being put at risk.

The current backlog is creating pain and anguish for people up and down the country. GPs want to see their patients, but do not have enough hours in the day to meet demands. We know that patient safety is at risk.

Although these problems existed in General Practice before the pandemic, they have been exacerbated by it due to those who refrained from visiting their GP during the pandemic now taking up that opportunity, not to mention the record-breaking number of appointments delivered by GPs when factoring in the vaccine rollout.

**Q. Who is funding the campaign?**

**A**.  Rebuild General Practice is supported jointly by the BMA and the GPDF.

**HOW TO SUPPORT:**

**Q. How can other GPs support the campaign?**

**A.** GPs from across England, Scotland, and Wales are calling for more support to Rebuild General Practice. GPs can like and share our campaign messages on social media. They can also visit our website where there is an array of downloadable content to share and amplify. They can use this content to meet with their local MP and make them aware of our campaign.

**Q. How can the public support the campaign?**

**A**. GPs from across England, Scotland, and Wales are calling for more support to Rebuild General Practice.  Patients and the general public GPs can like and share our campaign messages on social media.

**Q. How can MPs support the campaign?**

**A**. GPs from across England, Scotland, and Wales are calling for more support to Rebuild General Practice.  Members of Parliament can like and share our campaign on social media, and ask a question in Parliament.

**CHALLENGING QUESTIONS**

*If you are faced with any challenging questions for which you would like suggested answers and lines to take, please email* [*hello@rebuildgp.co.uk*](mailto:hello@rebuildgp.co.uk) *and we will be happy to assist.*