**SLMC Update - April 2017**

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# Negotiating issues and contracts

## Update on negotiations

Contract negotiations between SGPC and Scottish Government are ongoing and while the focus of negotiations is on agreeing a contract for April 2018, short term measures which could help GPs now have also been discussed. These discussions led to the announcements made by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Shona Robison, at the SLMC conference on 10 March. These announcements included:

* A commitment to increase the GP Recruitment and Retention Fund from £1m in 2016/17 to £5m in 2017/18. This will fund GP training bursaries, help expand the GP Returners Scheme and increase the GP Retainer reimbursement rate.
* Reimbursement of £150 per practice for the return of workforce data in this year’s workforce survey.
* Raising the maximum amount of sickness pay that can be claimed for locum cover due to a GP partner’s absence from illness or injury, matching the payments for maternity leave. This sickness pay will be available to all GPs.
* Investment of a further £200,000 to reimburse the increase in the cost of completing appraisals for GPs, including sessional GPs.
* Expanding the GP Pharmacy fund – funding more pharmacists to work in more practices to reduce GP workload and improve patient care.
* Investment of £2 million in 2017 in training for GP nurse practitioners and practice nurses.

The Cabinet Secretary also announced that as a direct result of negotiations with SGPC, by 2021 the investment in direct support of general practice will reach an additional £250 million per year. How this money is spent will be part of the Scottish contract negotiations.

More information is available on the [BMA website](https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/general-practitioners-committee/gpc-scotland) including the latest mass emails sent out to GPs in Scotland.

## DDRB

The Cabinet Secretary has confirmed that £11.6 million will be added to the GP contract next year to cover pay and expenses– made up of a 1% uplift for staff expenses and 3.5% for other expenses.

Vaccination transformation programmeThe Scottish Government is undertaking a review of the delivery of vaccinations in Scotland and is seeking to establish a programme to develop, test and implement models for future delivery of vaccinations. The Scottish Government wrote to the directors of public health, NHS boards and the IJB Chief Officers Executive Group on 24 February to seek their support and agreement to working together to develop and deliver the new programme. This builds on the message of the 3 November memorandum about some services moving to be delivered by a professional other than the GP, with no loss of funding.

## GP earnings and expenses review

In November 2016 it was announced that an independent review of GP pay and expenses would be carried out and Deloitte was subsequently appointed to carry out this work. In February 2017 a feasibility study was completed using data from 21 volunteer practices. The full review using a larger, representative sample of practices is due to be completed by the end of May 2017. The review is being overseen by a Review Advisory Group which includes representation from SGPC, the BMA’s Head of Research, Scottish Government, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) and Deloitte.

## Improving practice sustainability

A Scottish Government short life working group, with SGPC representation, was set up in summer 2016 and explored practical solutions and longer term recommendations to support and improve the sustainability of general practice. The group’s report was published at the end of 2016 and an implementation group is now looking at ways to put the report’s recommendations into practice.

## Premises

SGPC was represented on a short life working group set up at the behest of the Cabinet Secretary to explore GP premises’ issues and develop recommendations. A report was submitted to the Cabinet Secretary in November and an implementation group to progress recommendations is now in place.

# Information Management and Technology

## SPIRE

SPIRE (the Scottish Primary Care Information Resource) is a service that has been developed to help GPs, the NHS in Scotland and researchers to learn from information held at GP practices. This new service launched on 7 March. More information about SPIRE, including a video of support from the chair of SGPC, can be found [here](http://spire.scot/).

## GP websites

NHS 24 is carrying out a project to create a standard GP website template for practices in Scotland to use on a voluntary basis. The website will include standard NHS 24 information, will encourage patients to see the most appropriate health professional and will include practice-specific information such as opening times. A Project Group with GP and practice manager representation will meet for the first time on 19 April to help shape the product to the needs of general practice.

# For Information

## Firearms

The UK BMA guidance on firearms licensing was updated on 3 March 2017 to reflect the latest advice. As this is a reserved issue there is no separate guidance for Scotland but there are operational differences in Scotland, specifically that the GP can amend the form to accurately reflect what they want to say. The guidance can be found on the [BMA website](https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/ethics/ethics-a-to-z/firearms).

## Public holiday health and social care resilience review

The Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport recently announced the Scottish Government’s plan to review the way health and social care services are provided over public holidays. The Review will look at availability of services across the whole health and social care spectrum over public holiday periods, including the role of third and independent sector provision. The Review is being led by Sir Lewis Ritchie and will report to the Cabinet Secretary in September 2017. SGPC is represented on the main Review Group and the Primary Care Working Group.

At the SLMC conference on 10 March the Cabinet Secretary made clear that working on public holidays will not be made mandatory for GPs in Scotland.

## Realising Realistic Medicine

The Scottish Government’s Chief Medical Officer, Catherine Calderwood, published her annual report on 27 February. The report, *Realising Realistic Medicine*, is available on the Scottish Government website: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514513.pdf>.

## Scottish Ambulance Service

At the last SGPC meeting several issues were raised relating to the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS). These included GP practices being used as a place of safety, technicians arriving instead of a 999 ambulance, patients being dropped off at practices instead of being taken to A&E departments, and 999 calls being deflected to practices when the SAS service is busy. SGPC are seeking a meeting with SAS to raise these issues. Please send in any additional examples to the SGPC secretariat.

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| **LMCs are reminded they can contact Gillian Simpson in SGPC secretariat for more information on any of these issues (**[**gsimpson@bma.org.uk**](mailto:gsimpson@bma.org.uk)**).**  **Any emails for the SGPC negotiating team should be submitted to** [**info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk**](mailto:info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk) **– your ideas about achievable measures to reduce pressure on general practice are always welcome. We can’t respond to every email but all emails are read and considered by the team.** |