**SLMC Update – April 2019**



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# Negotiating issues and contracts

## Scottish GP Contract: One year on

The first Scotland-only GP contract came into force a year ago on 1 April 2018. An historic joint agreement between the BMA and Scottish Government, the contract aimed to set out a distinctive new direction for general practice in Scotland.

More details on the progress made to date in delivering the contract are available via the following article, “[Going it alone – the Scottish GP contract one year on](https://www.bma.org.uk/news/2019/march/going-it-alone-the-scottish-gp-contract-one-year-later)”.

## Employers Superannuation Contributions

An interim solution to the pension payments has been provided. Practices should have received a statement confirming the amount of funding they will receive to cover the superannuation payment due by 19 May based on information provided to PSD. If you have not yet provided details or have an issue urgently contact: Maria Coppola, either by phone on 0141 300 1301 or by email: [mcoppola@nhs.net](mailto:mcoppola@nhs.net).

GK 700 FreeAgent Pro:001 work in progress:moving brands:20141006_MB_BMA Presentation:BMA_Word templates Files_:201141107_letterhead amends and continuation assets:emfs for word:BMA_LOGO.emfThis arrangement should leave no-one out of pocket and avoids the very damaging effect on practice income we all feared. SGPC has been clear this absolutely had to be the case from the outset, and this shows we have been listened to and our concerns acted upon. Further details on this is available via a [blog](https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/bma_scotland_community/b/weblog/posts/pension-payment-progress-welcome-interim-solution-found?utm_source=The%20British%20Medical%20Association&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10500333_NEW12A1%20GP%20ENEWSLETTER%20250419%20SCOTLAND%20ONLY&utm_content=Pensions%20blog&dm_t=0,0,0,0,0) written by Dr Andrew Buist and in [Good Practice newsletter, Issue 111, May 2019](https://nhsnss.org/media/3482/good-practice-newsletter-may-2019-temp.pdf).

## GP Sustainability Loan Application and Scheme

In addition to the Primary Care Improvement Plan work there has also been progress in relation to premises which have as a result have reduced the risk for GPs in owning premises, further details of this are included in the following article: “[Risk of GPs owning premises reduced](https://www.bma.org.uk/news/2019/february/risk-of-gps-owning-premises-reduced)” which details the latest investment of £20million that was announced by the Cabinet Secretary of Health and Sport, Ms Jeane Freeman, MSP on 13 February 2019. The GP sustainability loan scheme officially opened on 8 November 2018. These are interest-free loans (“GP sustainability loans”) for GPs that own their own premises to reduce the risks associated with premises ownership. SGPC are hopeful that the final legal arrangements will be complete very soon and would advise practices to involve their independent legal advisors to ensure that title deeds and other necessary arrangements are in place for the uptake of the scheme. Final consideration of accepting the loan can be made at a later stage following consideration of SGPC guidance and independent legal and financial advice.

## Primary Care Improvement Plan

The Primary Care Improvement Plan Guidance 2 was issued in March 2019 with further guidance issued in April 2019. The Reporting Cycle and Local Implementation Tracker was discussed along with the PCIP Guidance 2 at the last SGPC meeting on 28 March 2019. Additional content for the PCIP is requested for the end of April 2019. The PCIP Reporting Cycle and Tracker was approved at the [GMS National Oversight Group](https://www.gov.scot/groups/gms-oversight-group/) meeting on 23 January 2019. The Tracker will also be requested for completion in April and October each year.

## GP Subcommittee Funding

A further letter was issued to LMCs on 16 April which clarifies that GP Subcommittees can choose to request that the Scottish Government funding to support their activities is transferred to them directly unless they are satisfied with local arrangements. In addition, the paper also details that the funding must support additional activity required by the introduction of the new contract and the MOU.

## GP Clusters

National Guidance for GP Clusters is being developed collaboratively as a resource to support GP Clusters and support [Implementing Improving Together](https://ihub.scot/improvement-programmes/primary-care/improving-together-interactive-iti/). This guidance has been agreed by representatives of Scottish Government and SGPC, informed by RCGP, Healthcare Improvement Scotland, NHS Education for Scotland and Primary Care Clinical Leads.

The guidance aims to clarify and promote consistency for the core role and function of PQL’s and CQLs; describe key relationships to enable GP clusters to influence wider system quality improvement through their influence on the wider organisation; describe the minimum support and resourcing to be provided to clusters and signpost GP Clusters to interactive quality improvement resources.

The key relationships within the GP Tripartite structure which consists of the Cluster Quality Leads (CQL), GP Subcommittee and Clinical Directors is also explained in more detail. The GP Tripartite group coordinated by the GP Subcommittee, has a role limited to providing a consistent GP voice on Clinical Care Pathways and commissioning advice to Health and Social Care Partnerships.   
The National Guidance is expected to be published by May 2019.

## Minimum Earnings Expectation

The [GP Minimum Earnings Expectation Scottish Government Circular](https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/pca/PCA2019(M)05.pdf) was sent out on 1 April along with [GP partner minimum earning expectation 2019: guidance](https://www.gov.scot/publications/gp-partner-minimum-earnings-expectation-2019-guidance/). The circular advises health boards on the introduction of GP Partner Minimum Earnings Expectation to ensure that no GP partner in Scotland earns less than £84,630 (including pension contributions) NHS income for a whole-time equivalent post. For claims in the financial year 2019/20, GPs who intend to apply are asked to submit their claim forms by 31 July 2019.

## Locum GPs Superannuation Contributions

PSD have advised that there is now a significant restriction to the grace period for receipt of forms at financial year end. All Forms A and B relating to the financial year to 31st March 19 must be received by them by 8 May 2019 for earnings to be superannuated. PSD have advised that any forms for 2018/19 received after that date will not be accepted and will be returned. Again, PSD should be able to provide any clarification required

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## The Pressures of General Practice

Deputy Chair, Dr Andrew Cowie has written his reflections on the pressure that planning decisions that don’t consider general practice can put on surgeries across Scotland: “[Putting Practice into Planning](https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/bma_scotland_community/b/weblog/posts/putting-practice-into-planning)” and welcomed progress in raising this issue with the Scottish Government.

## International Women’s Day

On International Women’s Day (8 March), our Deputy Chair, Dr Patricia Moultrie spoke of the importance that women be strong positive role models in a blog on the theme of #BalanceforBetter on [International Women’s Day](https://www.bma.org.uk/connecting-doctors/bma_scotland_community/b/weblog/posts/international-women-s-day).

# Information Management and Technology

## Guide to information

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act treats GP practices as public bodies for many of the purposes of the Act, creating a duty for practices to have a publication scheme for information. The Scottish Information Commissioner strongly recommends that all public bodies adopt the [model publication](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/ScottishPublicAuthorities/PublicationSchemes/PublicationSchemesHome.aspx) scheme it has created, which requires organisations to produce a ‘guide to information’ that they make available.

BMA Scotland produces a template guide to information that practices can fill in with their own details to comply with this scheme. As the Scottish Information Commissioner has made changes to their model publication scheme, we have made corresponding updates to the template guide to information for practices to ensure that practices using it continue to comply with the requirements of this legislation. The updated template can be accessed [online](https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/word%20files/practical%20advice%20at%20work/gp%20practices/gp-practice-guide-model-publication-scheme-2019.docx?la=en).

## GP IT Re-Provisioning

A GP IT Cohort Sub-group has been formed from the GP IT Service Management Board to discuss and take forward the cohort design, key principles and messages with a final output of a Selection Guidance Document for GP practices that will explain the process for selection of the new GP IT systems in simple terms. This will consider the potential for practices to be grouped together based on common characteristics, needs/wants from the system to aid in the selection process for IT systems. The three suppliers EMIS Health, Microtest and Vision Health are currently finalising their proposed GP IT systems for selection by cohorts early next year. Further details can be found on the [NHS Scotland GPIT FAQ page](https://www.gpit.scot.nhs.uk/faqs/).

## Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The fourth meeting of the Scottish Joint GP IT Group is on 9 May and will discuss IT systems for vaccination transformation, a framework on CQL/PQL data access and the MDT Digital Enablement work in more detail. The remit of the group is to provide a coordinated joint approach to GP information management and communications technologies projects within the NHS and provide guidance on GP IM&T matters.

# External Consultations

## Clinical Negligence Indemnity

A national [BMA response](https://www.bma.org.uk/-/media/files/pdfs/collective%20voice/influence/uk%20governments/westminster/bma%20response%20to%20consultation%20on%20appropriate%20clinical%20negligence%20cover%2027022019.pdf?la=en) was provided on a [consultation on appropriate clinical negligence cover](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/appropriate-clinical-negligence-cover) which is a proposal from the Department of Health and Social Care, to introduce regulations around clinical negligence indemnity. Our SGPC Chair, Dr Andrew Buist also wrote to Scottish Secretary David Mundell MP highlighting the negative impact that higher indemnity costs for GPs in Scotland could have on recruitment.

# For information

## SLMC Medical and Lay Secretaries Day

The SLMC Lay Secretaries took place on 10 April where GPDF expenses, public holidays, training and development   
(eg ready for partnership training), contract implementation and relationships within LMCs, and local issues were discussed. The Medical Secretaries Day held on for 17 April discussed local issues, the SLMC Conference 2019, shared progress on Primary Care Implementation Plans, GP Subcommittee support and concerns and informed on progress with the use of trackers and scoping tools.

## GP Wellbeing

The GMC were commissioned to provide a UK wide review of the Mental Health and wellbeing of doctors in the workplace and formed the GMC/NES Scottish Advisory Group for the Wellbeing of the Medical Profession. The group’s remit is to make recommendations on methods of implementation around creating healthy working environments and improving support for medical students and doctors who are developing work related mental health problems including stress, and burnout. There is a proposal for a service based on the [Practitioner Health Service](https://gphealth.nhs.uk/) in NHS England. Dr Patricia Moultrie, SGPC and Dr Carey Lunan, RCGP who represent GPs on the group will lead on strengthening services for GPs. SGPC are considering whether this arrangement will meet the requirements of the motion passed and will continue to discuss this with Scottish Government.  
  
GP Wellbeing is a priority of SGPC from a motion that was passed at the SLMC Conference in 2018, last year:  
(132) That this conference believes that whilst the occupational health service now available to GPs is a welcome step forward:

i. it demands that SGPC works with the Scottish Government to deliver a comprehensive confidential NHS service for all GPs and GP trainees in Scotland suffering from mental health conditions, including stress and depression which is at least comparable with the NHS GP health service available to GPs in England

ii. the Scottish Government should be aiming to provide a specialised primary care service which recognises the unique problems which doctors with acute and chronic illnesses face.

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| **LMCs are reminded they can contact Andrea Ma, SGPC secretariat for more details (**[ama@bma.org.uk](mailto:ama@bma.org.uk)**).**  **Our SGPC Negotiating Team**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Image result for dr andrew cowie |  | C:\Users\patricia\Pictures\.jpg | | ***Dr Andrew Cowie***  ***Deputy Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Andrew Buist***  ***Chair, SGPC*** | ***Dr Patricia Moultrie***  ***Deputy Chair, SGPC*** |   **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.** |