MINI BULLETIN – 05 April 2023

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| One of the largest Practices in Scotland is handing back its Contract because it has been **unable to recruit GPs.** |

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| One in three GP appointments lasted more than 15 minutes and a fifth lasted more than 20 minutes in the past year, the **first figures measuring appointment length** over a full 12-month period show. |

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| NHS England should set up a 'buyout fund' to replace **struggling GP Practices** that fail to improve, according to recommendations in a major Government review. |

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| The **current GP Contract** is a 'significant barrier' to innovation and should be reshaped to allow more local flexibility, with a 'more holistic' QOF and incentives for Primary Care at scale, a major Government review has concluded. |

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| Smaller GP Practices could be 'strong-armed' into **selling out to private companies** under plans outlined in a Government review, the BMA has warned. |

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[Feryal Clark Shadow Minister (Health and Social Care)](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D25896&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KYwSU3I%2BfWiSQkfnFoeVa9AIjOdXIpGMP6SIMJUNuvw%3D&reserved=0)

To ask the [Secretary of State](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D23&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wI1p%2BHO3QMXm%2FzjYZbJMYKJiolsMZiboPrws2cqH6M4%3D&reserved=0) for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Report by the [Royal College](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRoyal_College&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xn67Ta5nRB2CiC8Zf8DzG5pGltkfzn0w2O9eXAPCC4g%3D&reserved=0) of [General Practitioners](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FGeneral_Practitioners&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uftvAZMJ2Z6lTcZtnD1Ukqqm%2BXNM5ILmyx9rjiIU7f8%3D&reserved=0) entitled Fit for the Future: GP Pressures Report 2023, published March 2023, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the findings of that Report that:

(a) 57% of General Practice staff said they have not accessed winter support and funding due to a lack of flexibility on how the funding can be used, and

(b) 35% of General Practice staff said they have not accessed winter support and funding because the application process is too lengthy or difficult; and if he will make a statement.

[Neil O'Brien The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D25679&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nmmGJoC78xBBh8KPFzUXRyLOCBeR3sNK5vgOnCO98fw%3D&reserved=0)

No specific assessment has been made. In Autumn 2021, the Government and [NHS England](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_England&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZxhAJek%2FPSG9Gxxpofp9%2FBHPICmBkbY0D0HCjn3tqdc%3D&reserved=0) published a package of measures, and made £250 million available for a Winter Access Fund to support General Practices (GPs) and increase capacity.

Examples of how the Winter Access Fund was used included additional hubs and helplines, expanding home visiting capacity, and funding additional sessions from staff.

In Autumn 2022, we relaxed funding rules to give Primary Care Networks greater freedom to recruit new roles such as GP Assistants and Digital Transformation Leads, to bolster GP teams, free up clinical time and reduce the administrative burden on GPs.

[Hansard source](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fquestions-statements.parliament.uk%2Fwritten-questions%2Fdetail%2F2023-03-28%2F175677&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZCOrqHP%2Fd3jPTaSRGFXGV9Ir5898B5aklin2KcImgy0%3D&reserved=0)(Citation: HC Deb, 4 April 2023, cW)

[Feryal Clark Shadow Minister (Health and Social Care)](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D25896&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KYwSU3I%2BfWiSQkfnFoeVa9AIjOdXIpGMP6SIMJUNuvw%3D&reserved=0)

To ask the [Secretary of State](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fglossary%2F%3Fgl%3D23&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wI1p%2BHO3QMXm%2FzjYZbJMYKJiolsMZiboPrws2cqH6M4%3D&reserved=0) for Health and Social Care, with reference to the [Royal College](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FRoyal_College&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xn67Ta5nRB2CiC8Zf8DzG5pGltkfzn0w2O9eXAPCC4g%3D&reserved=0) of [General Practitioners](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FGeneral_Practitioners&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uftvAZMJ2Z6lTcZtnD1Ukqqm%2BXNM5ILmyx9rjiIU7f8%3D&reserved=0) report entitled Fit for the Future GP Pressures 2023, published in March 2023, what assessment he has made of the potential benefits of a flexible funding plan for general practice to deal with surges in demand.

[Neil O'Brien The Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health and Social Care](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F%3Fp%3D25679&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nmmGJoC78xBBh8KPFzUXRyLOCBeR3sNK5vgOnCO98fw%3D&reserved=0)

In January 2019, the Government, [NHS England](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_England&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZxhAJek%2FPSG9Gxxpofp9%2FBHPICmBkbY0D0HCjn3tqdc%3D&reserved=0) and [NHS Improvement](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_Improvement&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Q%2BZ8BVi8eV6%2BbhM2mCgMWADdfoK08BbSGaOnkjMXg30%3D&reserved=0) and the General Practitioners Committee of the [British Medical Association](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FBritish_Medical_Association&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=dTnSmmx5Gb6f%2F4WnTuZEyap8q5ticg%2BPgKUHZi%2Frz%2B8%3D&reserved=0) agreed to the most ambitious General Practice (GP) Contract in recent years.

The resulting five-year framework for [GP Contract](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FGP_contract&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=gLwFYHqjFW982q8rYqKK9H1uMBD%2FBgJrqKxbN83j2Ok%3D&reserved=0) reform implements the commitments set out in the [NHS Long Term Plan](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNHS_Long_Term_Plan&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375681620%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5I%2BHCgGOyKKCgkt65ZuEgL6B6YfFuHCbJA%2BIA7uPlK8%3D&reserved=0) and is underpinned by a record level of additional investment in primary medical and community care (an extra £4.5 billion by 2023/24).

This was updated in 2020 to invest at least an extra £1.5 billion to increase and diversify the general practice workforce.

The global sum allocation formula which underpins capitation payments to GPs is designed to ensure that resources are directed to Practices based on an estimate of their expected patient demand and unavoidable practice costs. Under this formula, practices whose registered patients have greater healthcare needs are paid more per patient than Practices whose registered patients have fewer healthcare needs.

The [National Health Service](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FNational_Health_Service&data=05%7C01%7C%7C447e7b2a647c4d17f9b608db35dffde6%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638163008375837834%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MjA0XuUbjRzGagnCnwRtysJtM9z4pKJUaHHyvP76e%2BY%3D&reserved=0) has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient medical services, including GPs, in each local area. It should take account of population growth and demographic changes.

The multi-year GP Contract provides funding clarity and certainty to practices until 2023/24. The current framework ends in April 2024. Future funding arrangements for GPs will be considered in due course.

No specific assessments have been made, however, in October 2021, the Government and NHS England published a package of measures, and made £250 million available for a Winter Access Fund to support practices and increase capacity.

Examples of how the Winter Access Fund was used included additional hubs and helplines, expanding home visiting capacity, and funding additional sessions from staff.