**SLMC Update – Sept 2019**



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# Negotiating issues and contracts

## DDRB Announcement

The recommendations from the review body on doctors’ and dentists’ pay was published on 22 July 2019 and is available [online](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-body-on-doctors-and-dentists-remuneration-47th-report-2019). The Scottish Government subsequently announced a 2.5% uplift in pay for all doctors backdated to April. For general practice, the total value of the contract will increase by 3.23%, comprised of a 2.5% uplift of GP pay net of expenses, an uplift of 1.9% for non-staff expenses in line with inflation and a 3% increase for practice staff pay to match the increase seen by Agenda for Change staff. Where appropriate, SGPC would encourage and expect practices to use funding intended for staff pay to deliver a pay increase for staff. A further £4.2 million has been added to the global sum to reflect population growth, bringing the total value of contract changes to £23.2 million. Further details of the pay award for GPs is detailed in a [blog](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2019/08/29/pay-award-for-gps/) by Patricia Moultrie, deputy chair.

## GP sustainability loan application and scheme

The terms of the GP sustainability premises loans are still being finalised but are now nearing completion.   
We anticipate this process being completed in the very near future.

## Scottish Government/SGPC Joint Rural Letter

A joint statement was provided by Scottish Government and SGPC on the remote and rural working group on 30 August to all LMC secretaries the joint Scottish Government and SGPC statement entitled – ‘The GP Contract and Remote and Rural General Practice: Our Shared Principles and Approach’, including intentions to develop options appraisal guidance on how principles of implementing the flexibilities contained in the contract can be operationalised; publication of a report of progress of the Remote and Rural Working Group in Autumn 2019; and revision of the terms of reference of the group to enable suggestions of innovative solutions to enhance remote and rural general practice as international exemplars of service delivery. A copy of this letter will be available via contacting your local LMC medical secretaries.

## Tracker Returns and PCIP and Tracker meeting

The next submission of health board local implementation trackers is due in the first week of October 2019. We would however encourage that local systems complete their trackers during September to allow for analysis of the data in advance of the Scottish LMC Conference in November. A formal communication regarding this will be sent out jointly by Scottish Government and SGPC soon with further guidance on completion. It will be important for a process to be in place to ensure that the version of the tracker submitted has been agreed by the GP Subcommittee. The next PCIP and tracker meetings is scheduled for Thursday 7 November (11-4pm) at BMA Scotland offices with invitations sent in October to LMC medical secretaries with the expectation that LMCs send the office bearer who is most closely involved with contract implementation.

# Workforce

## Data Collection

The collection of practice data to inform negotiations on the second phase of the new GP contract will begin in Autumn. An initial pilot study was held in nine GP practices where feedback will be assessed and used to enhance and improve the General Practice Data Collection Tool. A formal communication will be provided by both the Scottish Government and SGPC to practices including guidance information to aid in completion of the tool as well as explanations as to why data is required and what it will be used for. SGPC negotiators hope that LMCs will encourage all practices to submit data, as obtaining information that is as accurate and comprehensive as possible is essential to accurately inform the negotiation of phase 2. Personal data will be held securely by NSS and only provided to the negotiating parties in aggregated form. Individuals’ data provided solely for purposes of negotiation will subsequently be deleted upon completion of negotiations.

## NHS Workforce Planning – Part 2 -Audit Scotland Report

The NHS Workforce Planning – Part 2 -Audit Scotland Report was published by Audit Scotland on 28 August 2019. Further details can be found on the [Audit Scotland website.](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/report/nhs-workforce-planning-part-2) It clearly highlights the work that still needs to be done to make General Practice a more attractive career option for doctors. Further details of SGPC’s response to the report can be found in a blog [online](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2019/08/29/new-report-highlights-work-that-needs-to-be-done/).

# Information Management and Technology

## GP Website

SGPC invited Dr Anna Lamont, Associate Medical Director and Gillian Burns, Senior Project Manager from NHS24 to present their work on a GP Practice website solution for Scotland. NHS24 was commissioned by Scottish Government to provide a consistent digital presence for GP practices. It is anticipated that there will be a March 2020 release which will provide a website containing information on health conditions, self-care, local service and support, and details of the GP practice such as staff, map, opening times, and information on how to book appointments and request prescriptions. NHS24 intend to roll out providing a website with limited capabilities on content initially, with priority given to GP practices without a digital presence.

## Scottish Joint GP IT Group

The fifth meeting of the Scottish Joint GP IT Group was on 15 August and received a presentation on IT systems for the Vaccination Transformation Programme. Other items discussed included Order Communication system, Docman licensing issues, SNOMED CT, small board IT infrastructure and GP IT Re-Provisioning. The next meeting is on 13 November and will receive a presentation on the Order Communication system. The remit of the group is to support a coordinated strategic approach to GP information management and communications technologies projects within the NHS.

# For information

## SGPC Elections

I am delighted to announce that the SGPC elections have concluded and our SGPC Executive and negotiating team have been elected. This was our first year adopting electronic elections for our office-bearer positions. I am pleased to announce that our joint deputy chairs, Dr Patricia Moultrie and Dr Andrew Cowie will be continuing their positions as key members in our negotiating team. Congratulations also to our following members who have successfully been elected to our SGPC Executive: Chris Black from Ayrshire & Arran LMC, John Ip from Glasgow LMC, Iain Kennedy from Highland LMC, Denise Mcfarlane from Grampian LMC, and Iain Morrison from Lothian LMC.

## SLMC Conference

A reminder that the deadlines for LMC representative and motion submission for SLMC Conference is approaching. Representative names are requested for Friday 27 September and motions by 1 October at 12noon.

Representative expenses will once again be claimed back through LMCs within prescribed limits and representatives will not be receiving direct reimbursements from GPDF Ltd. Detailed expenses information has been provided by GPDF Ltd and will be sent out to LMCs in October. To support LMCs in writing their motions the policy book including active conference policy and lapsed motions following 2018 conference and actions taken in relation to resolution were sent out along with links to guidance.

## GP Wellbeing

A document providing rationale for a GP mental health service in Scotland was discussed at SGPC, on the back of a motion being passed at SLMC Conference 2018. The document itself provided context of the risks to GPs health and the need for services similar to the GP wellbeing service in England to be introduced in Scotland and explanations as to how the service was established, the cost and as such how this could be implemented in Scotland. The intention was that the document would be proposed to Scottish Government.

## Increasing Undergraduate Education in Primary Care

A final report of the Increasing Undergraduate Education in Primary Care group is scheduled to be published in September. Recommendations include a recommended rate increase of ACT funding to help in recruitment and retention of GP educators.

## LMC and GP Subcommittee board visits

The SGPC Negotiating team are keen to engage with LMCs and see the progress of implementation first hand. The team have visited Lothian, Borders and five practices in Highland: Brora, Lochinver, Thurso, Ullapool, and Wick and are due to visit Dumfries and Galloway. A blog was written by the chair on his visit to Highland which can be viewed [on the BMA Scotland blog](https://bmascotland.home.blog/2019/08/21/out-and-about-listening-to-remote-and-rural-gps/). They have discussed local needs of areas, and shared learning and knowledge from other areas as well as taking a wealth of knowledge from each visit. If your LMC is also interested in a visit from our team, please do get in contact with us at [info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk](mailto:info.gpscotland@bma.org.uk). We would welcome the chance to arrange a visit to your area.

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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.** |

**Follow the work of the BMA online:**

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