



Kent Local Medical Committee

Supporting list based personalised care, the partnership model and meaningful collaboration

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To All MPs in Kent & Medway

Dear Sir/Madam

I am sure you are aware the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body (DDRB) is an independent body that makes recommendations on pay award for doctors and dentists. In March this year the DDRB made a recommendation that in light of the significant pressures and challenges faced by general Practice GPs should be awarded a 4% pay rise. Unfortunately, the government decided to overrule this recommendation and instead announced an increase in the pay of 2% for GPs. With inflation running significantly higher than 2% this pay deal is a real terms pay cut.

It is also a matter of concern that while the government in England has taken this step the governments elsewhere in the UK have recognised the importance of a fair pay settlement. As a result, in Scotland they have announced an uplift of GP and practice staff pay by 3% and in Wales they have implemented the DDRB recommendations in full, thereby awarding a 4% uplift to GPs and practice staff from April 2018.

BMA figures show that over the last 10 years GPs have seen a 20% fall in their earnings. We are facing serious workforce shortages and the morale amongst GPs is at rock bottom. NHS figures show that Kent needs an extra 250 GPs just to reach the national average. A LMC survey last year revealed that 40% of the respondents were planning to leave the NHS in the next 5 years. It is against this backdrop that the government has decided to overrule the recommendations from DDRB.

This pay cut will only serve to further reduce the morale of primary care and deepen the workforce crisis. Ultimately, this can only have a negative impact on patient care. A BMA survey of approx. 12000 respondents shows that 9 in 10 doctors think this pay deal is unacceptable.

I would urge you to take up this matter urgently with the relevant departments and ministers through your office. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss your response in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Dr Gaurav Gupta
Chairman