



Department
of Health

PO00000876442

The Rt Hon Simon Burns MP
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

From the Rt Hon the Earl Howe PC
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality (Lords)

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Dear Simon,

Thank you for your letter of 21 July on behalf of your constituent

about

I appreciate concerns about the phasing out of the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG) for general practice.

As is aware, the MPIG was introduced in 2004 to support some practices in moving to the new General Medical Services contract. The MPIG is used to top up practices' core funding to match their basic income levels before the new contract was introduced.

The MPIG is currently being phased out and the money this releases will be used to increase the basic funding that all practices receive. This will stop some GP practices receiving thousands of pounds more than others that care for similar numbers of patients with similar patient needs, and distribute resources more equitably between practices. These changes to funding will be managed over seven years to allow all practices to adjust to different payments gradually.

From April 2013, NHS England has taken on many of the functions of the former primary care trusts, including the commissioning of primary care medical services. NHS England is committed to ensuring that there is a fairer system of funding for all GP practices where all get the same basic funding per patient. However, this funding will be weighted to take account of factors such as the age of the population and the rural location of some practices.

may therefore wish to raise the concerns of the Patient Participation Group with NHS England directly, by contacting it at the address overleaf:

NHS England
PO Box 16738
Redditch B97 9PT

Tel: 0300 311 22 33

Email: england.contactus@nhs.net

Finally, I note concerns about the *Put patients first: back general practice* campaign. As commissioning GP services is the responsibility of NHS England, it will be for it to determine the level of funding required to deliver GP services in order to meet the needs of patients.

NHS England is developing a strategic framework for commissioning GP services, to strengthen general practice and enable it to play an even more pivotal role at the heart of more integrated systems of out-of-hospital care for patients and local communities.

We recognise the central role that GPs play in managing patients' long-term health needs and reducing the need for hospital admissions. We have set out plans for improving care for vulnerable older people, including how GPs can help people to stay healthy and live independently.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours ever,

Earl Howe

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