



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Ministerial Correspondence
and Public Enquiries Unit*

*39 Victoria Street
London
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Your ref: 2025/July/WS/PS/MH

Our ref: DE-1620560

30 July 2025

Dear Sir Soulsby and Councillor Dempster,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 July about GP services in Leicester. I have been asked to reply.

I appreciate your concerns.

The Government has committed to training thousands more GPs across the country, including Leicester, which will increase capacity and take the pressure off those currently working in the system.

Each General Practice is required to provide services to meet the reasonable needs of their patients. There is no NHS England recommendation for how many patients a GP should have assigned, or the ratio of GPs or other practice staff to patients. The demands each patient places on their general practice are different and can be affected by many different factors, including rurality and patient demographics. It is necessary to consider the workforce for each practice as a whole; not only GPs, but also the range of health professionals available who are able to respond to the needs of their patients.

The Government committed to recruiting over 1,000 recently qualified GPs through an £82million boost to the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) over 2024/25, as part of an initiative to address GP unemployment and secure the future pipeline of GPs. Data on the number of recently qualified general practitioners for which primary care networks are claiming reimbursement via the ARRS shows that since 1 October 2024, over 2000 GPs were recruited through the scheme.

Earlier in the year, the Government announced it is investing an additional £889million through the GP contract for 2025/26 to reinforce the NHS, bringing total spend on the GP contract to £13.2billion.

Under the contract changes, the ARRS has become more flexible to allow Primary Care Networks to respond better to local workforce needs. The two ARRS pots will be combined to create a single pot for reimbursement of patient facing staff costs. There will be no restrictions on the number or type of staff covered, including GPs and practice

nurses.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Correspondence Officer

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