

# The voice of frontline doctors

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Dear MP,

We write to you as a fellow medic or Health Select Committee member to raise our concerns about the current trajectory of general practice in the UK.

We are the GP team at Doctors' Association UK (DAUK). We are working NHS GPs from all around England and we have been voicing our concerns in the press, in MP briefings and to the general public since our inception in 2020.

As a Christmas gift this year, we enclose two books written by our vice-chair and Cumbria-based GP Dr Ellen Welch. The first is a history of the NHS, which gives a digestible overview of our health service from its formation to the present day.

The second, focuses on general practice. "Why Can't I See My GP" was published earlier this year and shines a light on the current issues affecting general practice. We would love you to read these books – the GP book in particular – for a readable account of what general practice is, what we do, and just why we are in such a mess right now.

We also provide some solutions, which are within your reach as MPs to action, and we urge you to read DAUK's updated manifesto for general practice and take it to your debates, committees, and meetings.

Please follow our work and consider signing up as an associate member of DAUK for regular updates and news.

We would love you to share a photo of your books on social media to show your commitment to improving general practice.

We've said it before, and we'll say it again and again, general practice holds the NHS together and it needs urgent investment to avoid it following in the footsteps of NHS dentistry.

If general practice fails, the NHS fails – please don't let this happen on your watch.

Here is our 10-point manifesto for saving general practice:

- Invest £3 per month per head of population to achieve a return to real terms funding last seen in 2015. That's the equivalent of the price of a cup of coffee per month.
- Aim for ratios of patient to GP full-time equivalent of 1:1600 patients – and even lower in deprived areas – to reduce pressure and ensure all patients have equitable access to GPs.
- GPs need jobs. We have unemployed and underemployed GPs because practices don't have the funds to employ them. Firstly invest. Secondly develop meaningful careers for new GPs by supporting fellowships, educational funds and innovation such as the GP with extended role initiative.
- Provide long-term benefits to enable GPs to stay rooted in their community.
- Support partnerships with limited liability.
- Develop email and messaging capacity for practices. Phones are okay, but this way no one needs to wait, and doctors can clearly see who is on the list.
- Relieve pressure on GPs by shortening secondary care waiting lists.
- No more NHS reform or reorganisation. Form a cross-party group to make longer term decisions for our health service and stabilise the NHS.
- Long term plan for estates. We need room for everyone, including any plan to expand places for healthcare students.
- Improve the IT infrastructure. GPs desperately need computers which don't freeze and crash.

You can find DAUK on social media and online at:

[www.dauk.org](http://www.dauk.org)

[Instagram](#)

[Bluesky / Bluesky GP Team](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[X / X GP Team](#)

Best wishes from

Dr Ellen Welch, DAUK vice-chair

[@wanderingwelch](#)