

# General Practitioners Defence Fund

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14 December 2016

## **To the Chair, Chief Executive and/or LMC Secretary**

Dear colleague,

Some issues were raised at the LMC Secretaries Conference in relation to changes to GPDF.

I hope I can clarify these.

The Meldrum report suggested a membership of GPDF which was entirely LMC nominees.

The GPDF Board felt that the Company would be unmanageable in the interim period until September 2017 without a core of experienced members, and legal advice was that managing this process in one step was not possible.

For this reason it was decided to have the LMC nominees as additional members to the current GPC members of GPDF. Clearly at this stage the LMC nominees could not be existing members and hence currently LMC nominees cannot be GPC members.

When all LMC nominees are accepted, under this arrangement, they would be in a position to change the Articles of Association of the Company to exclude the GPC members and then allow their readmission as LMC nominees, if this was the wish of the appropriate majority.

Members of GPC Scotland and GPC Wales who are not members of GPC UK are eligible for LMC nomination to GPDF under the current arrangements.

I was also asked to outline the implications of LMCs withholding the levy payment to GPDF. I could write a small book on this topic, but in essence they divide into the parochial and the seismic.

Nobody wants to remove representative rights of any GPs, but I would not support payment of honoraria or expenses to representatives from non levy paying LMCs.

The GPDF funds the central negotiating structure of General Practice. The cost is large, as our annual accounts show, but our Branch of Practice is unique, in that we have annual contract negotiations.

Without this funding from the LMCs, this structure would collapse, and it is highly likely that Government would negotiate with other organisations, leading to fragmentation and inequity.

Of course the BMA would support a GP Committee, but at a level of funding which would not support our current representation. I enclose a copy of a slide showing some of the output of the GPC executive this year, in addition to negotiating with Government and its proxies, and representing General Practice in a large number of other areas.

Please share this letter and attachment with your practices, as I realise that GPC funding is also an issue at practice level.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Stewart Kay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Dr Stewart Kay**  
**GPDF Chairman**

