



Derby & Derbyshire LMC and
General Practice Derbyshire,
Norman House,
Heritage Gate,
Friar Gate,
Derby
DE1 1NU

Wednesday, 24 April 2019

FTAO: Dr Nagpaul
Chair of the Council of the British Medical Association

Dear Dr Nagpaul,

We are writing to express our concern regarding the recent reports of sexism and harassment involving the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association and ask for clarity on intended outcome and timescales on addressing this incredibly worrying situation.

At Derby and Derbyshire LMC (DDLMC), we would like to thank the courageous individuals who have stood up and called out this discrimination. We would like to wish our heartfelt support to these women and hope the independent investigation occurs swiftly and thoroughly, addressing their real concerns and resulting in a marked behaviour change within the organisation.

We are pleased to hear that you have immediately initiated an investigation that is independent of the BMA. We would like to voice our concern that communications are still suggesting vulnerable people who have been on the receiving end of "any abuse, discrimination or inappropriate behaviour" should raise this to yourself, GPC Executive, GPC national chairs or the BMA complaints team. We feel that this fails to appreciate that victims may not wish to report concerns to the organisation where they suffered abuse. We therefore wonder if you would be able to share details of the investigating team and their contact details, so that we are able to pass these on to colleagues who may wish to add their own experiences to the investigation.

As an organisation that contributes to the GPC, both financially and by providing representatives, DDLMC would like assurances that as a result of this investigation, no colleague will be subject to inappropriate behaviour and/or discrimination because of any protected characteristic.

DDLMC prides itself on welcoming representatives of any age, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation through an open elections process. As a direct result of the actions of these brave women we will be reviewing our internal policies and ensuring what is happening nationally will not happen locally. It is clear to our committee members that we are all equally responsible for stamping out bigotry and we must address inappropriate behaviour when we witness it, otherwise we are all complicit.

Kind Regards,

Dr Kath Markus, Chief Executive

Dr Peter Williams, Chair DDLMC

