



## POSITION STATEMENT 18 January 2017

### RE: Theresa May Demands GPs move to 8am-8pm 7 day service

Derby and Derbyshire LMC are appalled by the Prime Minister's [recent attack](#) on General Practitioners.

Her demand that GPs should move to a routine 7day service shows a fundamental lack of understanding of general practice. Furthermore, it is a deliberate and unwarranted attack, using GPs as scapegoats for the current crisis in the NHS.

The escalating state of emergency seen in hospitals is a result of successive governments underfunding and fragmenting the NHS. We have an ageing population, many of whom are living longer with multiple medical problems. This puts inevitable pressure on the system. The recent reports of ['black alerts' in hospitals](#), are the end result of mismanagement by politicians, not the clinicians working within the NHS.

General practice has been in a state of emergency for years. GPs receive on average £142 per patient per year to provide all services. We are one of the most cost efficient parts of the health service. But with increasing demand we can no longer continue to provide 5 day (let alone 7 day) services without a significant uplift in core funding. The argument for increased general practice funding has been made clearly by the Chief Executive of NHS England, Simon Stevens, in his 2016 [GP Forward View](#).

With insufficient funding and increasing demand, the job is becoming simply unbearable for many; no one wants to be a GP anymore. We have a recruitment crisis, and, perhaps more worryingly a retention crisis with an estimated [1/3 of the workforce retiring](#) from general practice in the next 5 years; this is a perfect storm. There is a real risk of the collapse of UK general practice. Demanding a 40% increase in working hours with no extra staff available, and no funds to provide this is frankly preposterous.

We understand the General Practice Committee of the British Medical Association will be meeting this Thursday. We will be requesting that our regional representative, and Derby and Derbyshire LMC Treasurer, [Dr Peter Holden](#), demand that this issue is addressed as a matter of urgency. We will be requesting the GPC Executive Chair meets urgently with Mrs May, and demands she retract her statement and apologise to the profession.

We seek public acknowledgement that general practice is working at full capacity, with GPs available 24hours a day 7 days a week, and any increase in routine working hours is currently unachievable.

Dr Holden says: *'This nation has insufficient doctors and insufficient beds whether they be for social care or health care. GPs do not seek sympathy but seek an accurate picture of the massive efforts of all doctors practising in the UK. The first thing we need to do in solving the NHS crisis is recognise that an empty bed is not an idle bed but is the flexibility required to meet the natural peaks and troughs of disease'.*

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