

THE FISHPONDS FAMILY PRACTICE

www.thefishpondsfamilypractice.nhs.uk

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Dear Patients

We feel compelled to write to you to share our concerns that the latest proposed government changes to the NHS will have a significant detrimental impact on your care.

We have tried to adapt to the very challenging financial climate of the NHS over the past several years by investing in training existing staff and recruiting new staff so we can continue to provide you with a high quality primary care service. We fear this service will not be sustainable with the new government plans.

The junior doctors' contract that the government intends to impose next year will result in junior doctors working longer hours with worse pay and conditions. This will inevitably lead to a decrease in patient safety as well as driving a number of doctors previously committed to working in the NHS away from the UK or into different professions. It will also deter junior doctors from wanting to train as GPs. There is currently a GP training crisis and in some areas up to 1/3 of training posts are unfilled.

The government was voted in at the last election on a pledge to increase the number of GPs by 5000 by 2020. They have **NO CHANCE** of achieving this. It takes 10 years to train to be a GP. There is already a workforce crisis in primary care. There are daily reports of practices closing down because of a lack of GPs. Practices nearby in Filton and in Clifton have recently closed. A recent BMA survey found that 6 out of 10 GPs are considering early retirement and more than a third are actively planning for this decision. With the poor situation in the UK many doctors are leaving the NHS. Our own practice is soon to lose one of its GPs who has decided to move to Australia for better working conditions.

Despite all this we remain committed to providing you with a high quality family doctor service at Fishponds Family Practice for as long as we can.

We are sorry to paint such a negative picture but we have serious concerns about the sustainability of primary care and the NHS and we question the government's commitment to the continued provision of universal health care free at the point of need. If you find any of this troubling and would like to support us please consider writing to your MP (Jack Lopresti, in South Glos, jack.lopresti.mp@parliament.uk or Kerry McCarthy, in Bristol East, kerry.mccarthy.mp@parliament.uk) to express your concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Fishponds Family Practice