



Craig Whittaker MP

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Recruiting More GPs: Royal College of General Practitioners

Thank you for contacting me about student placements in General Practice.

I understand and sympathise with the concerns raised by this campaign from the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). I entirely agree that it is essential that General Practice is properly supported by the NHS.

The Government is keenly aware of the need to boost the number of General Practitioners (GPs), and make sure that GPs are well supported by the health service. This is why the Government has funded the NHS's own plan for the future of GPs, the General Practice Forward View.

The General Practice Forward View places a high priority on bolstering the GP workforce. It should lead to 5,000 more doctors, and an increase of 5,000 in other staff working in general practice by 2020, compared with 2015. This will be done by increasing the numbers of GPs in training to 3,250 per year, and launching a major international recruitment campaign, to attract the world's finest medical talent, as well as nurturing a new generation of home-grown GPs. The Government is also investing an additional £2.4 billion a year by 2020/21 in General Practice, to address the pressures currently facing primary care.

Progress is being made. I am happy to note that, in 2017, the number of doctors recruited for GP training was 14 percent higher than in 2015. I hope you are reassured to know that Health Education England is working closely with the RCGP to ensure that General Practice is a popular, and well-supported destination for our doctors.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP