

Dr. Sarah Wollaston MP, chair
Health and Social Care Committee
By e-mail

30th November 2018

Dear Dr. Wollaston,

Thank you very much for your letter of 31st October regarding the outsourcing of NHS GP pensions management to Capita, and your offer to raise this with NHS England if I was unhappy with their response.

Unfortunately, I have yet to have any formal response to the original letter of 11th October¹, and although NHSE's interim director of primary care Dr. Nikita Kanani has kindly addressed two individual cases, there has been no meaningful action on the system failures beyond the offer of a meeting in relation to one of those cases.

To give you a flavour of those cases, one was a doctor who had to retire at a young age on ill-health grounds, and was then left without access to her pension for almost a year, until I raised her case with Dr. Kanani. In that time the doctor had to rely on medical hardship charities to provide for her children. The other is a GP working abroad for the British Army, in a timezone eight hours ahead of the UK, who was asked to supply four years' worth of historical monthly paperwork to NHSE which they had lost.

I see dozens of similar cases a week, and view this as both contemptuous of GPs' time, and as an attempt to get frontline doctors to do the work which Capita are being paid to.

What we would like to see, and what I've suggested to NHSE, is that they agree to accept a proof of annual NHS earnings where they've lost data. This would mean that individuals have to find a single piece of information, in most cases present on their tax returns, which establishes their pensions entitlement.

In conjunction with the National Association of Sessional GPs, I have relaunched the original campaign, and this letter is co-signed by three other doctors' groups, representing tens of thousands of doctors around the country. This reflects the enormous financial uncertainty and hardship caused by NHS England's handling of pensions, and I'd be very grateful if you could raise the matter with them.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas Grundy	Chair, GP Survival
Dr. Richard Fieldhouse	Chairman, National Association for Sessional GPs
Dr. Samantha Batt-Rawden	The Doctors' Association UK
Dr. Russell Brown	Co-founder, Resilient GP

¹ The letter has now had 526 signatures: <http://www.generalpracticesurvival.co.uk/open-letter-pensions/>