

Why should I pay the GPDF Voluntary levy?

This is a valid question which is asked by GPs from time to time. This is a brief reminder of the purpose of GPDF, how it uses the funds gathered from GPs via LMCs with the aim of supporting and advancing general practice.

- **The GPDF exists to ensure appropriate representation, influence and support for LMCs, GPs and general practice.** All efforts, activity and expenditure are focused on achieving this purpose on behalf of ALL GPs. To maintain this support, it is essential that via their LMC GPs and their practices contribute to the fund in proportion to their local patient population. The 2019 levy on LMCs to fund this activity was 5.4 pence per patient (a reduction of 10% on 2018); this was subsequently reduced by the rebate to LMCs of almost £1,000,000 announced in late 2019, equivalent to a 25% reduction of the 2019 per capita rate from 5.4 pence to 4 pence.
- **The contracts for GPs are negotiated nationally by the General Practice Committees of the BMA in England, Scotland and Wales.** GPDF provides a grant to the BMA in order that GPs can participate in GPC UK; GPC England; GPC Wales; and GPC Scotland without financial disadvantage, thereby enabling effective **National Representation on behalf of all GPs**. The level of support for National Representation provided by the GPDF is over £1.3M per year. Without this support the BMA would not pay GPs for the first 12 meetings they attend, resulting in many being unwilling and unable to engage in representational activity on behalf of their colleagues. As an example, in England the representation activity has ensured the successful deal announced in 2019 to provide a state backed indemnity scheme.
- **Conferences are the ‘voice’ of GPs via LMCs to influence policy making and to hold the GPCs to account** GPDF funds the UK, England, Wales and Scotland LMC Conferences, and the LMC Secretaries’ Conference. These conferences are a very important opportunity to debate, share and listen to issues of topical interest across general practice. They provide the opportunity for grass roots GP representatives to set future policy, update on progress of GPC activity and enable networking and cross-fertilisation across LMCs and GPs. The level of support to conferences from GPDF is over £350,000 per year. Without the Quota payment there would be no England, Welsh or Scottish LMC conferences, and the UK Conference would be reduced to one day for a limited number of BMA members, and held within BMA House. There would be no access for LMCs to influence BMA policy development and few if any representatives from the LMC conference at the BMA’s annual policy making meeting, the ARM.
- **The Grant to the BMA from the GPDF** enables LMCs to access national and regional ListServers together with access to the GPC secretariats and Policy Leads for advice, which would otherwise be available only to BMA members on an individual basis.
- **Support to GPs via LMCs:** GPDF can provide bespoke support in specific areas or issues to assist general practice. The recent guidance notes and template contracts related to PCNs and Clinical Directors, sponsorship of individual LMC roadshows re PCNs, financial support for the PCN conference and masterclasses, and support for the GPC roadshows to update LMCs on contractual changes are all examples. There is considerable advice provided to LMCs by the various GPC executive teams and Policy leads which would not be available without the quota funding.
- **Legal Support:** GPDF has provided support for Legal advice or action on issues which have ‘national significance’ in relation to general practice. The level of support given by GPDF varies each year depending on the requests received and/or cases involved.

If you have a specific question about what GPDF does – please contact the Director of Operations (do@gpdf.org.uk)
Visit the website (www.gpdf.org.uk) for more information.