



# Communique

The newsletter of the GPDF  
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## Update: Discussions with BMA on a Deed of Grant for funding National Representation

The GPDF and the BMA are committed to working together to explore a longer-term funding agreement for the benefit of general practice and we have been in discussion for several months.

While the process has been interrupted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, discussions continue, and we are hopeful of reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement before too long. To enable us to reach agreement we have asked the BMA on a number of occasions for information regarding their future plans but, to date, our request has had a negligible response.

As many of you will be aware, we have given LMCs the opportunity to take part in a concise consultation on the subject. It came as something of a surprise that the BMA felt compelled to write to the GPDF's LMC members on 19th June, regarding a piece of independent research that we are conducting.

As an open and transparent organisation, the GPDF Board regularly seeks and will continue to seek the views of our members on a range of issues that are important to them and the future of the Company. We are delighted to have had positive response to this survey with many LMCs having conveyed their views to us. We are now collating those views after the period of consultation and will be sharing the outcome with our members and other stakeholders as normal.

Thanks to those who have taken part.

## Update: Joint project with BMA to deliver Value for Money

Following the initial positive, early discussions on a proposed joint project involving the GPDF, BMA and GPC; the BMA, of late, has sought to delay the project partly because of the Covid-19 pandemic. As this project is germane to agreeing a long-term funding arrangement, we remain hopeful that this impasse will be resolved before too long. We will, of course, update LMCs with more details on the review in due course.

## COVID-19 Legal guidance Email Advice Line

GPDF's legal advisers Penningtons Manches Cooper have offered to provide up to 30 hours of legal guidance at no cost to the GPDF in relation to commercial, contractual and employment issues that LMCs and practices might be facing as a result of COVID-19. This is in addition to information and advice on a number of common commercial and employment issues which are contained in their Coronavirus Resource Hub

(<https://www.penningtonslaw.com/covid-19>).

An email address for LMCs to send questions or queries has been established – [covid-gpdf@penningtonslaw.co.uk](mailto:covid-gpdf@penningtonslaw.co.uk) and this available now to LMCs. If you are a GP or Practice who has a question, please advise your LMC. Where appropriate, LMCs should collate queries and forward them to the email address above.

## Annual General Meeting: 2019

We had planned to hold this year's AGM on 11 September at a venue in central London, but, because of the risks posed by the pandemic, the Directors have decided that it is in the best interests of all concerned for the meeting to be held virtually.

Consequently, members of the Company will attend the AGM via a video conference platform, the details for which will be circulated to members (the nominees of LMCs) well in advance of 11 September.