

# Communique

The newsletter of the GPDF

December 2021



## Levy held for a further year

The Board of GPDF has announced that there will be no increase to the per capita rate for the voluntary quota for 2022. The level will remain at 3p per registered patient despite an increase in planned activity and expenditure to support LMCs in the coming year. More details of GPDF initiatives including details of their strategic plans will be shared in the coming months.

## National Association of Local Medical Committees

A consultation survey to gather LMCs' views and priorities in relation to the development of a National Association of LMCs is planned in the next few weeks. We would encourage as many people as possible to take part in this consultation in order that the GPDF can refine its plans and actions in line with the views of LMCs.

An invitation and link to take part will be sent to everyone on the database of LMC contacts held by the GPDF

## Sign up to our database

We are always trying to ensure we reach as many people within LMCs as possible with information and news, and to invite them to participate in consultations. If you would like to be kept up to date and are not already on the database, please access the form [here](#) or email [marion@jlral.co.uk](mailto:marion@jlral.co.uk) to be added to the GPDF contact database.



## GPDF funds joint media campaign in support of general practice

**We are pleased to confirm that the GPDF has committed to funding a national PR/Communications campaign over the next 6 months, jointly with the BMA, in support of general practice. Our thanks to those from LMCs who took part in the recent consultation survey on this issue, and we can confirm that the activity will be in line with the wishes of the majority of LMCs. This will include a range of material and activity specifically to assist LMCs in generating positive local/regional media coverage in support of GPs.**

A representative from every LMC in England, Scotland and Wales will be invited to attend an online briefing by the communications agency managing the campaign in order that you can understand the plans and provide feedback or comments.

Planning for the campaign has started and is expected to be visible in the coming weeks. Please look out for future information and emails on how you and your LMC can become involved.

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## The General Practice Alert System (GPAS) – national rollout

As announced in our last Newsletter the GPDF has committed to fund and support the roll-out to all LMCs that wish to adopt this bespoke 'General Practice Alert System' (GPAS). This system, developed by Devon LMC, provides clear evidence of workforce pressure on practices, enabling LMCs to bring support quickly to practices under the greatest pressure.

The system converts the General Practice Alert State (GPAS) data into a dashboard format OPEL assessment with associated triggers for a system response for support and can categorise practices to be running at Green, Amber 1, Amber 2, Red and Black, with defined levels of response identified at each level.

GPAS has been operational in Devon for a number of months and has had a tangible impact and positive engagement with CCGs in reacting quickly to critical situations and finding ways to plan ahead more effectively. Over the next few weeks GPAS is planned to be installed in the following: Gateshead LMC; North Wales LMC; Derby and Derbyshire LMC; Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland LMC; Lincolnshire LMC; Kent LMC; Humberside LMC; Wessex LMCs; Calderdale LMC; Northampton LMC; Cambridgeshire LMC and Londonwide LMCs.

If your LMC is interested in having GPAS installed as part of the next phase of the nationwide roll out to all LMCs, which begins in February, please register [here](#) and Devon LMC will be in touch with more information and to discuss a delivery date with you in due course.

GPDF very much hopes you will take advantage of this support for your LMC in what is anticipated to be the first of a number of GPDF initiatives.

## VAT- in the context of supplying medical care/consultants/GP specialists.

In a recent appeal heard by the Upper Tribunal (Tax and Chancery Chamber), the Appellant, Mainpay Limited appealed against the decision of the First-tier Tribunal (FTT).

The question in this appeal was whether Mainpay supplied medical care so that its supplies were exempt from VAT, or whether it was making a standard rated supply of staff.

Mainpay supplied medical consultants and specialist general practitioners to an intermediary company, which in turn supplied the consultants and GP Specialists to various hospital clients, generally NHS Trusts. The supplies, the subject of this appeal, were made in the period 1 November 2010 to 31 January 2014.

The First-Tier Tribunal held that Mainpay's supplies **were not exempt from VAT** but were, instead, a standard rated supply of staff. Mainpay appealed to the Upper Tribunal on six Grounds of Appeal, which are not described in this note, but their appeal was dismissed.

This case underlines the importance of obtaining professional advice on all forms of taxation, including VAT. Further details can be found in an article by Jan Garioch CA ([Jan Garioch CA discusses the Upper Tribunal case Mainpay Ltd v HMRC | ICAS](#)) or on HMRC's website (Mainpay v HMRC).

## Best wishes for the Festive Season

The Board and Management Team of the GPDF would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year.





## Contact us

GPDF engagement: For any matter regarding the role/remit of GPDF or engagement of GPDF with other organisations.

Dougy Moederle-Lumb: *Chair of GPDF*  
[chair@gpdf.org.uk](mailto:chair@gpdf.org.uk)

GPDF policy regarding the annual quota, payments of various kinds and any matter related to requests for legal support.

John Canning: *Director of Operations*  
[doo@gpdf.org.uk](mailto:doo@gpdf.org.uk)

GPDF Membership: For any matter related to GPDF Membership, Articles of Association or Governance structure.

Hugh Christie: *Company Secretary*  
[cosec@gpdf.org.uk](mailto:cosec@gpdf.org.uk)

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