



Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
alex.cole-hamilton.msp@parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202200285305
Your Reference: Medical Centre

31 March 2022

Dear Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP,

Thank you for your email of 3 March to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP regarding Cllr Fraser MacPherson's concerns about the Ryehill Medical Practice, Dundee. I have been asked to reply on his behalf, as I'm sure you will understand, Mr Yousaf is still experiencing a significant increase in correspondence at present due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has asked me to assure you that he continues to value the time you have taken to raise this issue with him, and he hopes you will find the information in my reply helpful.

I understand that NHS Tayside have been keeping Cllr MacPherson informed and have responded to several correspondences from him. A response to Cllr MacPherson and a colleague is copied below.

NHS Tayside response to Cllr MacPherson

We understand the concerns you and your colleague Cllr MacPherson have noted in relation to ensuring ongoing care for those patients who are registered with Ryehill Medical Practice in light of the decision by the GPs to terminate their contract with effect from 30 June.

I would like to reassure you that ensuring ongoing, safe and person-centred care from the wider general practice team is a key priority in relation to any decision which will be made by NHS Tayside.

There are likely to be a number of options which can be considered, some of which might be:

- the practice merging with another local GP practice*
- patients being registered to a different GP practice in their local area*

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· the practice being run by NHS Tayside, and this is dependent on being able to provide GPs to deliver care.

The teams in Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership and NHS Tayside will continue to develop options as further information becomes available over the next few weeks.

The national challenges for GP recruitment which have impacted on the GP partners at Ryehill also impact on capacity in other practices, including staffing in practices run by NHS Tayside or '2c' practices as they are known.

No 2c practice currently has the ability to take significant numbers of patients with their current GP workforce, and for many practices they also do not have space. There are already a number of GP vacancies in 2c practices which have been unfilled for some time. This creates a complex context for assessing how we best provide ongoing care for those patients at Ryehill practice and across the city.

The team will continue to progress development of options to agree a preferred option as quickly as possible, recognising the uncertainty for both patients and the staff in the practice, as well as the time required to change to any new system.

I would like to reassure you that every option is being considered but we must ensure that the agreed outcome provides a sustainable solution for patients and GP practices across the city.

I have included a link to the NHS Tayside FAQ on Ryehill Medical Practice which you may find useful. The link has been widely shared including with Cllr MacPherson.

https://www.nhstayside.scot.nhs.uk/News/Article/index.htm?article=PROD_354130

I should note that Scottish Government remains on track to increase the number of GPs working in Scotland by at least 800 by 2027. We have taken a number of actions, including increasing the number of medical places at universities, and taking steps to encourage medical graduates to choose general practice. We are also considering ways in which to support retention of mid-career GPs.

The 2018 GP contract was developed with Scottish General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association to help alleviate pressures on practices and we are doing everything possible to achieve full implementation.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Naureen Ahmad
GPP : GP Contract & Implementation

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