



Our ref: WQ85273

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Aberconwy

Janet.Finch-Saunders@senedd.wales

13 June 2022

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your recent written question WQ85273 asking what consideration has been given to creating a legal binding cap on the number of residents that can be registered with a single GP.

In Wales, GPs are not employed by the NHS but are independent contractors who work within the parameters of their General Medical Service (GMS) contract to provide services to their NHS patients. GP practices ultimately are responsible for monitoring their patient lists numbers and preventing oversubscribing.

Whilst each health board sets the geographical boundary in which a GP practice forms its patient list, the number of patients is down to the discretion of the practice. The patient registration system enables the proper distribution of funding and resource planning.

Practices themselves are best places to employ the mix of staff they need to meet the reasonable needs of patients. As funding is provided on a per patient basis, the larger list practices have much larger teams, often Multi-Disciplinary Teams to ensure a wide range of professionals to meet patient demand. The growth of MDTs in general practice and principle of the patient being seen by the most appropriate healthcare professional, mean the pure measure of GPs to patients as a ratio is no longer valid. The latest statistics show there were 1,410 nurses and 1,264 other direct patient care staff working in general practices in Wales, <https://gov.wales/general-practice-workforce-31-december-2021>.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Health Boards are responsible for managing GMS contracts and ensuring the services provided by GP practices meet the reasonable needs of patients. Health Boards draw on a wide range of data that includes workforce, escalation status, patient complaints, serious incident reporting, HIW reports and CHC reports to inform discussions with practices as part of their contract review processes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services