

Dr S T McKenning



Code A

Phone Code A

11 December 1998

Dr Jane Barton
The Surgery
148 Forton Road
GOSPORT

Dear Dr Barton

I am sorry I was unable to contact you on Friday morning as arranged. I had one of those awful days which always seem to happen when there is insufficient time to cope with all the demands and by the time I was free it was well past 12.30pm and I was told you were not available. It therefore seemed sensible to put my thoughts to you in writing.

As you are aware Peter Beasley has been discussing with the LMC Secretary and myself some concerns that he has with respect to the way in which your practice currently works. It is not the custom of the LMC to intervene in practice difficulties unless specifically invited to do so by members of that practice.

I do however feel that it is appropriate to advise you that with your election as Chairperson of the Gosport PCG there are one or two difficulties of which you may not be fully aware. This concerns your availability for work within the practice and also work for the PCG. Guidance has been issued by the Medical Practice Committee which indicates that the MPC believes that the time commitment to PCGs of the Chairperson of the PCG precludes such a medical practitioner from working full time within General Practice and it was their suggestion that a reduction of commitment from full time to three quarter time is what they would be expecting from practitioners taking on the Chair of PCGs.

It would be naive to believe that Health Authorities in the current climate of "doctor bashing", would not be looking very closely at the commitment of medical practitioners involved with PCG Boards.

Whilst I accept that within General Practice there is great resentment to the interference that we currently experience from Politicians and the Press, which I personally believe is being orchestrated although I cannot prove it, I believe that it behoves all General Practitioners to ensure that there is no mechanism which Health Authorities can use to imply that improper practice may exist.

It was with these views in mind that I suggested to Peter Beasley that now might be an appropriate time to look again at your Partnership Deed to try and ensure that there are no areas which the Health Authority might attempt to use to the disadvantage of your practice.

Yours sincerely

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Dr S T McKenning
Chairman Portsmouth Local Medical Committee