

Notice of Motion submitted under Standing Order B36

1. By County Councillor Malik

Medical information requests from patients are not included in the national NHS GP contract. This means that there is some discretion as to whether a GP can charge patients for this information or not. The British Medical Association (BMA) provides guidance regarding the charging for items such as this.

We believe anyone making this request to support an application for help from the government should not face this levy.

In East Lancashire, the population experiences significant social and economic deprivation and the Medical Director of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), has included a reference to this issue in his weekly GP bulletin. In this, he has indicated that he was aware that GPs for the most part are sensitive to, and aware of, the circumstances of their patients, but he wished to bring this issue to their attention for their consideration.

Asking our poorest residents to pay for medical information in pursuit of help from the government perpetuates inequality, hitting the most disadvantaged when they are at their lowest ebb and seeking state support.

We believe all GP surgeries should have this issue brought to their attention. We can support this proposal collectively by committing to the following:

- (i) Bring the issue to the Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board, for the attention of all Lancashire CCGs and GP Practices.
- (ii) Write to all Lancashire MPs requesting their support in making a change to the national guidance to ensure this punitive measure hurting the most vulnerable is redressed.