Dear candidates

This is a transformational time for our country and our health service. General practice is the bedrock of the NHS. It is the first point of contact with the health service for many and is highly valued by patients. But it is also under immense strain. If we are to meet the challenges of the 21st century and put the NHS on a sustainable footing, it is essential that the next Government sets out a positive vision for the future of general practice and helps us realise the ambitions outlined in NHS England’s Long-Term Plan.

The Royal College of General Practitioners – representing over 53,000 GPs in the UK – has recently published our own vision for general practice. *Fit for the Future* was developed in consultation with more than 3000 people – GPs, a range of healthcare professionals, and patients. Our vision is that GPs will have more time to care for their patients – the standard consultation will be at least 15 minutes – and that being a GP is the best job in the world; but this future is only achievable if we equip general practice with the resources, infrastructure and skills that it needs.

That’s why we are calling on all Conservative Party leadership candidates to commit to:

- Safeguarding our NHS to ensure that it remains free at the point of use now and for future generations.
- Increasing funding for frontline general practice to at least 11% of the NHS budget, and deliver NHS England’s Long-Term Plan in full.
- Delivering on the Government’s previous commitment to recruit at least 5,000 additional GPs, in addition to recruiting members of the wider practice team to work on the frontline of general practice.
- Ensuring that general practice is an attractive career to retain experienced GPs in the profession.
- Preventing a no-deal Brexit that could have a significant impact on patient care by threatening the supply of medicines, medical devices and radioisotopes, and the recruitment and retention of vital EU national staff.

I urge you to publicly express your support for these vital issues, which will reassure the public and our members that you do indeed value general practice and the NHS more widely.

Yours sincerely

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard
Chair of Council