



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ91870

Andrew R.T. Davies MS
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales Central

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21 March 2024

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking what assessment I have made of the reasons for the recent significant fall in the number of GP partners in Wales?

The number of GP partners (both headcount and FTE) in Wales has been on a downward trend since 30 June 2021. On 30 September 2023, there were 1,381 GP partners (headcount), an annual decrease of 5.3%. The FTE of GP partners was 1,061, an annual decrease of 6.3%.

The majority of GPs are partners. However, in contrast, salaried GPs, locum GPs and registrars all show upward trends since 30 June 2021.

There were 628 salaried GPs (headcount), an annual increase of 21.7%.

572 different GPs had GP locum contracts recorded on Locum Hub Wales during the quarter 1 July 2023 to 30 September 2023, an annual increase of 20.7%.

There were 485 registrars (headcount), an annual decrease of 2.6% but an increase of 13.8% from the same date two years ago.

Further information is set out in the latest statistical release: [General practice workforce: as at 30 September 2023 | GOV.WALES](#).

We have taken a number of positive steps to support GP partners. The Partnership Premium Scheme was introduced on 1 October 2019 as an incentive for GPs to take up partner roles with payments made based on clinical sessions undertaken. The number of GPs in both the core and the higher scheme continues to rise each quarter.

The Welsh Government is committed to a mixed model of employment for GPs. We recognise the strengths of the partnership model, but are aware that many GPs for various lifestyle reasons will prefer a different employment model. We will be working with the explore options to support a blended workforce model, including ensuring there are high quality roles for salaried GPs alongside the partner roles.

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