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Date: 30 August 2022

Dear Baroness Morgan,

I am the editor of Pulse, the biggest magazine for GPs in the UK. We have recently conducted a major investigation on GP practice closures. For the first time, we examined all the practices and surgeries that had closed permanently, where a GP surgery no longer stands at that postcode.

Across the UK, we found there were 474 practices that filled this criteria. As a result of these closures, 1.49m patients were displaced. In Wales, this amounted to at least 18 practices affecting at least 106,000 patients. Our findings were interesting. We found:

- For more than 40% of the 162 surgeries we identified triggers for, recruitment issues were the final straw for the practice;
- These surgeries had markedly smaller list sizes than average – a median list size of 2,738.
- They were in postcodes that had a markedly lower median deprivation score than other surgeries – a score of 3.81 compared with 4.41 (with 1 being most deprived and 10 being least deprived);
- Using English data, 69% of practices that closed for good received lower funding per patient the last full financial year before they closed than the average funding for that financial year;
- A number of surgeries have closed with no other surgery within miles.

I am sure these findings would be of interest to you. I am happy to share our full data and methodology if you so wish.

I would also love an opportunity to talk you through these findings, and discuss some ideas around how we can mitigate this and support GPs and patients alike. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaimie Kaffash".

Jaimie Kaffash,
Editor, Pulse