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**PULSE**

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Dear Mr Barclay,

First, congratulations on your appointment as health secretary. I am the editor of Pulse, the biggest magazine for GPs. We have recently conducted a major investigation on GP practice closures, examining all the surgeries that had closed permanently – ie, where a GP surgery no longer stands at that postcode.

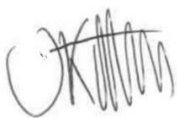
Across the UK, we found there were 474 practices that filled this criteria. As a result of these closures, 1.49m patients were displaced. In England, this amounted to 428 practices affecting at least 1.33m patients. We found:

- 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, compared with a median list size of 7,904 in England in 2020-21;
- 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);
- 69% of practices that closed for good in England 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,



Jaimie Kaffash,  
Editor, Pulse