

Letter To MP Template

To find out who your local MP is – go to the website below and type in your postcode:

<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>

Dear

I am a patient at The Wilson Practice in Alton.

The Partners have recently written to the patients informing them that due to Government funding cuts they can no longer provide us with the clinical care that they both used to and want to.

The Surgery provides services for over 17,000 patients and we rely on it for all of our health needs. It provides phlebotomy services as well as acute illness and chronic disease clinics, as well as a minor injuries service.

Over the last few years the financial pressures on the Medical Centre have increased. Staff costs, energy costs and the cost of disposable items used every day have spiralled. The funding from the Government however has remained static at approximately 2% compared to inflation which at times has been over 10%.

The Health Centre has to work with fewer administrative and clinical staff per patient in an effort to stay financially viable. This means that they are unable to offer the same number of appointments for either acute or chronic care. On top of this, the Practice are managing more work which is being passed down from hospitals, and patients also require more appointments for drug and disease monitoring. If anything patients need more appointments, not fewer.

As a patient I rely on having a local practice where the GPs know me and my health needs. Transport links to Basingstoke Hospital are not frequent or easy to navigate. Taxis are prohibitively expensive.

The Government needs to urgently invest more money in General Practice. In real terms General Practice funding has been slashed by over £350million since 2019 despite a backdrop of record patient demand. In addition, the GP share of NHS spend has fallen to an eight year low despite providing 90% of the country's healthcare. A worrying percentage of the country's surgeries are struggling with finances and having to cut services. We do not want to see primary care go the same way as NHS dentistry in England.

In an election year we are urgently requesting that you write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to highlight the struggle that we are facing in Alton, and to urge them to prioritise Primary care, the bedrock of the NHS model of care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.