

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-274	12 th July 2021
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- **What is the Health Board strategy for the future of the two Usk Practices?**

Dr Alan Jarrett and Dr Susan Jarrett of The Medical Centre, Usk notified the Health Board on 28th November 2020 of their intention to retire and therefore resign the GMS contract with effect from 31st March 2021.

A Vacant Practice Panel convened on the 18th December 2020. The panel included representation from Gwent Local Medical Committee and Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council to consider the options available as part of the GMS Vacant Practice Policy and to determine the most appropriate course of action for the future of the practice and service provision for patients.

The Panel's recommendation was to advertise the practice list locally on a full or partial basis. The practice list was advertised locally, within the Health Board with a closing date of 15th January 2021. The Health Board received three business cases and all were shortlisted and invited to interview.

The outcome from the Vacant Practice Interview Panel was, with effect from 1st April 2021, approximately 1800 patients were allocated to The Usk Surgery and approximately 253 patients were allocated to Wye Valley Practice. Approximately 513 patients were allocated to other local practices close to the patient's home address.

This decision was based on the need to maintain a level of core GMS service provision in the vicinity of The Medical Centre Usk (via The Usk Surgery) and the Panel was satisfied that the 2 existing contractors that applied for part of the patient list had the ability and capacity to safely deliver care to these patients.

- **If there is a strategy what is the timetable?**

The process has concluded and all patients were allocated to the respective GP practices as of 1st April 2021.

- **Has the Health board advertised for replacement staff and doctors for either The Usk Surgery or The Medical Centre since they rejected Dr. Jarrett's approach?**

The Health Board's Vacant Practice Process was implemented and determined the most appropriate course of action to secure the ongoing provision of GMS services for the patients formerly registered with The Medical Centre. The practice list was advertised locally and the outcome

resulted in the allocation of patients to The Usk Surgery and Wye Valley Practice and some surrounding GP practices.

Dr Alan Jarrett and Dr Susan Jarrett made the decision to retire from general practice and therefore resign their GMS contract with effect from 1st April 2021.

As part of the Vacant Practice process, the business cases received did not include the use of the premises, therefore The Medical Centre closed on 1st April 2021.

The large majority of GP practices across the Health Board are independent contractors. The services that GP Practices provide are contracted by the Health Board via The National Health Service, Wales General Medical Services Contract Wales 2004. As independent contractors, practices will determine the workforce infrastructure and advertise posts via various platforms. The Health Board does not direct this, however assurance was provided to the Vacant Practice Panel that both practices had capacity to deliver care safely to the additional patients that were allocated.

- **Please detail savings made by delays to the above questions**
There have been no savings generated by the changes other than reimbursements for rent which equates to £18,000 per annum.