

Dr Jackie Applebee  
Dr Simon Brownleader

24 May 2018  
**Via email only**

Dear Dr Applebee and Dr Brownleader,

Thank you for your letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 regarding discussions between Hammersmith & Fulham CCG and NHS England on the cost pressures associated with the GP at Hand practice. In providing a response to your letter, we thought it would be helpful to clarify the following:

- The list size of the GP at Hand practice grew from 2,503 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 25,028 by mid-April 2018. As of 9<sup>th</sup> May, that figure was 27,988.
- This represents a 12% increase in the registered population of the CCG, as compared to a national growth assumption of 0.3%. 5.4% (1,374) of these patients were previously registered in Tower Hamlets.
- As you correctly reference in your letter, the patients choosing to register with the practice have largely been younger than the London demographic, with 7 out of 10 registrants aged between 20 and 34.
- We are not yet clear as to whether the patients choosing to register with the practice are atypical in terms of underlying morbidity and service use. This will be covered as part of an independent evaluation commissioned by the CCG and NHS England. The agreed [specification](#) for the evaluation incorporates comments from the BMA and the London-wide LMC.
- We have already incurred significant additional costs, both in terms of payments to the practice and non-contracted activity across community, mental health and acute care settings. This is summarised in a recent [paper](#) to our Primary Care Commissioning Committee

Whilst we acknowledge that the allocation for the patients choosing to register with the GP at Hand practice will transfer to the CCG from 2019-20, the existing and projected list size growth in 2018-19 will result in a very real cost pressure. This directly inhibits our ability to deliver financial balance, invest in the development of new services and has a material impact on patients registered with our practices and non-registered patients resident in Hammersmith & Fulham. In line with our statutory duties as a CCG,



we will continue to work with NHS England to ensure that our allocation for this and future years reflects the characteristics and size of the population we are responsible for.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Timothy G Spicer'.

**Tim Spicer**  
**Chair**  
**NHS Hammersmith & Fulham CCG**

**Cc**  
**Rob Larkman, Accountable Officer, NHS Hammersmith & Fulham CCG**  
**Janet Cree, Managing Director, NHS Hammersmith & Fulham CCG**  
**Dr Sir Sam Everington, Chair, Tower Hamlets CCG**  
**Simon Stevens, CEO, NHS England**  
**Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health & Social Care**