

## **PE1698/L**

Jane Rentoul submission of 21 November 2018

### ***Why I have a particular view on the above petition:***

I am, and have been for 37 years, a patient at the Rural Remote Easdale Medical Practice in Argyll. I, and my family through all stages from birth, have received exemplary care over a range of illnesses from 'normal' to advanced cancer. All this has been available through the well-trying and tested small, flexible, generalist team which has been developed and refined over the years to suit its scattered population.

The confidence and morale boosting nature of such a superbly run practice cannot be over-emphasized, particularly when factoring in aiding recovery from serious illness.

The proposal to replace such a highly personalized service at our Surgery with a remote administration run by strangers who have no knowledge of us or our family background fills me and my husband with fear and foreboding.

I am particularly concerned that the new GP contract has not been RURAL PROOFED and has been developed with only solutions to urban problems in mind.

### ***What action the Committee should take:***

Ensure that the people who are proposing foisting these ill-thought out and totally inappropriate changes on us go back to the drawing board and very carefully consider the impact these proposals will have on the many Rural and Remote practices in Scotland.

Ensure that the disgraceful lack of consultation before Phase One was introduced is not repeated in the run up to Phase Two implementation and that RURAL PROOFING is in capital letters on every document and in every mindset of those involved.

Ensure that any proposed changes to the GP Contract are widely publicized and the public are given every opportunity to submit their views - and that those views are taken on board. There are even now very many people in rural Scotland completely unaware of the whole New GP Contract saga and consequently ignorant of how their lives will be changed adversely owing to its unnecessary and inappropriate implementation.

### ***Who the Committee could ask for more information:***

#### **Rural and Remote GPs**

Although their time should be spent caring for patients, not having to embrace the political world in order to protect themselves and their patients from such an ill thought-out scheme.

#### **Short Life Working Group**

Which now has a Rural GP member. I hope this voice is heard loud and clear and that the appointment is not simply a token gesture to appease those who oppose the alarming direction in which healthcare in rural Scotland appears to be travelling.

### Patients

Unprecedented numbers attended public meetings held on the Islands of Luing and Seil and at Kilmelford in February/March of this year. Many were shocked at the lack of consultation and felt strongly enough to follow up with letters to the Health Minister, MPs and MSPs. Such was - and is - the strength of feeling that these came from people who do not normally send letters to officials.

Sir Lewis Ritchie and Fiona Duff of the Short Life Working Group visited the Easdale Medical Practice in early September. The meeting was reported to be an informative and constructive one. It is to be hoped that this visit, along with Petition PE1698, will give cause to those in authority to reflect on the potential harm to GPs and patients in the Easdale Medical practice particularly and in rural Scotland in general caused by the introduction of the new contract in its present form.

Finally, I fully endorse the Petitioner Submission **PE1698/E** of 2 November 2018.