**“Implying that GPs have not been doing their job properly is erroneous and offensive” says LLRLMC**

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Responding to NHS England’s letter to GP practices about access to GP services, Dr Nainesh Chotai, who is Senior Partner at the Glenfield Surgery and Chair, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee (LLRLMC), said: “We would like to reassure our patients that General practice has been open throughout the pandemic. We are proud that local GPs have worked very hard to rapidly implement new ways of working delivering a predominantly remote service in compliance with official guidance to help stop the spread of the coronavirus during the ongoing pandemic. GPs have been working to ensure that they can provide a safe service protecting both patients and staff”

“Implying that GPs have not been doing their job properly is erroneous and offensive. It is an insult to GPs and their teams who have worked continuously throughout the pandemic, to deliver the vast majority of patient care in the NHS.

“Your local GPs are now facing the difficult logistics of providing possibly the highest number of influenza vaccines ever, whilst having to plan for winter pressures and the predicted second wave.”

“Routine GP appointments are back to near normal levels for this time of year despite the increased stress of working in pandemic conditions and GPs should be thanked for doing this not castigated.”

“At the same time, due to chronic underinvestment and increasing bureaucracy, the number of GPs available to provide the service continues to fall year after year”.

“We would like to reassure our patients that GPs will continue to work hard to provide a full service which will include face to face appointments where clinically appropriate.”

Ends

**Further Information:**

Dr Grant Ingrams, LLRLMC Press Officer 07973630838

**Notes to Editors:**

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Local Medical Committee is an elected representative body with statutory functions to represent NHS GPs in this area.