

TEXT OF LETTER TO PATIENTS DATED 13TH OF MAY 2008

Dear Patient

I am writing to up-date you on the changes at your GP Practice following my previous letter of 6 February 2008. I advised you in February that the practice's doctors, Dr Helen McNeil and Dr John Haughney, had dissolved their partnership. This meant the practice's existing contact with NHS Lanarkshire also ended.

I advised that you should continue to attend the practice in the normal way and this remains the case. I am now in a position to provide an update on progress with this situation.

NHS Lanarkshire has a duty to ensure that you continue to receive high quality patient care. We have put in place temporary contracts with both Dr McNeil and Dr Haughney to ensure this is the case.

NHS Lanarkshire is also required to put in place a process to award a new permanent contract for the practice. In doing so, we must act in accordance with relevant legislation.

An advert was placed for a General Medical Services contract for the practice in the British Medical Journal on the 10th of May 2008. The General Medical Services contract is the same type of contract that was previously in place at the practice and is the standard contracting route used for nearly all GP practices across Scotland.

Applications for this contract will be considered by a selection panel, which will include three patient representatives from the practice, a further patient representative from the East Kilbride Public Partnership Forum, an independent general practitioner and three representatives from NHS Lanarkshire.

We are holding a meeting for patients to give you an opportunity to comment on and find out more about the process. It is hoped that the meeting will be an opportunity to identify patient representatives to sit on the selection panel.

At the meeting, there will be a brief introduction from NHS Lanarkshire followed by your chance to make comments and ask questions. It will take place as follows:

Tuesday 27th May 2008 7.00PM – 9.00 PM

Ballerup Hall
Civic Centre
Andrew Street
East Kilbride
G74 1AB

The hall can accommodate a maximum of 200, therefore I would be grateful if you could telephone 01698 245120 to advise of your attendance.

If you are unable to attend this meeting and would like more information or wish to be considered to participate on the selection panel, please contact Mr Alistair MacKintosh, Primary Care Manager, Strathclyde Hospital, Airbles Road, Motherwell ML1 3BW, tel 01698 245061 or email Alistair.Mackintosh@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk, before 27th May 2008.

Yours sincerely

A LAWRIE
DIRECTOR SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP