**Funding**

*What exactly does the GPDF levy fund?*

- The grant to the BMA (details are in Schedule 1 of the Deed of Grant which is available on our website https://www.gpdf.org.uk/downloads/7802)
- LMC attendees at conferences
- Conference venues
- Support for LMCs at above normal LMC activity
- Legal cases on matters of principle

*How much is paid to the BMA?*

- Over three years (July 2020 to June 2023) the grant was £3,730,000, of which £1,375,000 was paid in the year July 2020 to June 2021

**What does the money paid to the BMA fund?**

- In Schedule 1 of the Deed of Grant you will find a more complete description of the purpose of the grant to the BMA but in summary:
    - To top up honoraria payments, but not locum reimbursement or expenses, made to GPC members entitled to claim honoraria for attendance at work on behalf of the BMA. You will be aware that BMA has a policy not to pay members an honorarium for assisting in its committees for the first 12 meetings (the number has varied over time but has never been lower than 10). LMCs and GPC members feel this is not adequate and the GPDF historically paid honoraria to members of GPC and its subcommittees.
    - To support the remuneration of the Executive team members of GPCUK, GPCE, SGPC and GPCW
    - The payments are to bring the honoraria/remuneration to at least the levels in place on 30 June 2018

*Why is a separate organisation needed to pay the BMA?*

- A separate organisation is not essential; other options could be constructed, subject to the approval of the BMA, to enable payments directly to the BMA. These might include additional membership fees for GPs, payments directly from LMCs to the BMA, or the option of a members only BMA regional structure for GPs, as applies in other Branches of Practice.
- However, without the GPDF, or a similar organisation there would be no funding for LMC Conferences, the Secretaries Conference or legal matters outside the BMA's 'offer'.

*What can't the money be paid direct to the BMA?*

- This has partly been answered in the previous question. There is no reason why this could not be explored. However, as the BMA is a membership organisation it is unlikely that an LMC itself would qualify as a member of a trades union although members of the LMC would most probably be eligible. As you know, BMA membership is not universal among GPs.

*How is the GPDF addressing the perception of excessive expense*

- I have some difficulty in answering your question because you have not identified the costs which you consider excessive, or for that matter how you have arrived at your perception. Also, your perception suggests that costs are excessive, but you have not given me any comparative value as the basis on which you have formed your opinion. If, for example, you were to compare costs incurred by the GPDF with quota income you need to recognise that the GPDF quota has reduced by 50% when compared with 4 years ago.

*The running expenses of the GPDF appear to be high; could this be explained?*

- Comprehensive answers to this and related questions are set out in the document titled *Annual General Meeting held on 10 September 2021 Questions asked at the AGM and responses provided*, which you find on the GPDF'S website https://www.gpdf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/AGM-2021-QA-final-1021.pdf.

**Support for LMC projects**

*One of the undertakings given when Dr Canning spoke to the committee in January 20 was that the GPDF would actively be funding projects at LMC level*

- I have no recollection of giving such an undertaking, in any event funding is not at an individual LMC level, except where this is available to all LMCs equitably.

*How many projects have actually been funded since that time and how much has been paid out in such grants?*

- Since Dr Canning spoke to your committee two and a half years ago significant progress has been made by the GPDF in supporting LMCs and the profession. LMC Support is not simply about making grants available to individual LMCs or to groups of LMCs and in the last year or so the GPDF has supported LMCs and their GPs by commissioning a thorough review of representative structures in Great Britain; initiating research into the opportunity for a National Association of LMCs; commissioning a review of the changing landscape facing LMCs and practices; jointly funding the Rebuild General Practice campaign; and assisting the four LMCs in South Yorkshire, Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham, to formalise a SYLMC group.

**Legal cases**

*How are decisions made on which cases to fund?*

- In accordance with the Legal Support Policy on the website and circulated to LMCs

*What criteria are used to decide on support?*

- The criteria are set out in the Legal Support Policy

*How many cases have been funded?*

- Typically, one or two each year. However, in late 2021 following a request by a number of LMCs the GPDF sought legal advice from Brabners LLP and David Locke QC on the merits of any potential legal challenge to the decision of the UK Government to change its guidance on the Covid-19 vaccination programme. The guidance note on the topic is on the GPDF's website.

*What is the assessment of the value for money of those cases and evaluation of dissemination of judgments?*

- Value is not the issue in most cases. The principle to be established or defended is the principal determinant in deciding whether to proceed, followed by the likelihood of success based on the opinion of our legal agents.
- Within the constraints of confidentiality examples of cases supported by the GPDF are disclosed in our Annual Report or Newsletters all of which are on the GPDF's website.

**GPDF constitution**

*How is the GPDF addressing the need to be more inclusive and representative of modern GP workforce on its board?*

- As the nominee for Northumberland LMC and, therefore, a member of the GPDF, you will be familiar with the GPDF's Articles of Association and more specifically Article 6 which deals with

membership of the Company and Article 15 which deals with the composition of the Board of Directors.

- Up to six Directors are elected by the members and as such the GPDF has no locus in determining whom an LMC appoints as its nominee or, for that matter, who seeks election to the Board or who is elected to the Board. You will have seen the Notice of Elections in prior years as well as the Notice sent on 10 June, and you will have noted the reference to various considerations of equity.

**If the LMC were to cease paying the GPDF what would be the 3 main consequences**

- The right to use the BMA's LMC ListServer would be withdrawn
- Reimbursement of Travel and Subsistence cost when attending conferences would cease
- In accordance with Article 6.9 the GPDF may resolve to suspend the Membership of the Member nominated by Northumberland LMC and prohibit the LMC from nominating any other person in their place. The GPDF may seek to charge your LMC for some or all conferences, events and assistance.

*Please can you explain the rationale for your statement that should an LMC cease to pay the levy for a period of time that unpaid levy' would continue to accrue during that period despite the LMC not having access to the GPDF during said period?*

- The GPDF exists for the mutual benefit of LMCs throughout Great Britain, a club if you prefer. If an LMC decides not to remit its share of the annual quota that burden falls to the other LMCs to make good the shortfall in remittances. It would therefore be totally inequitable for an LMC to continue to enjoy the benefits provided by the GPDF directly or indirectly by supporting the GPCs and their executive teams engaged with national representation.
- Were the nominee of an LMC to be suspended the LMC would be precluded from nominating another member and would be excluded from participating in the ordinary business of the GPDF, Including attending general meetings of the Company and voting on various resolutions and in elections to the Board.
- A rather more prosaic way of looking at the value of the under-remittances payable should an LMC wish to become a member is that it is the premium charged for re-joining the club.

GPDF Ltd
June 2022