

Update from Dr Violaine Carpenter, Herts GPC Rep

16th January 2020

I expect you are all eagerly anticipating the outcome of today's GPC meeting as I'm sure you have all been as obsessed as I have about the disastrous PCN DES Specs!

Firstly, thank you to all of you who sent me your feedback and also those who completed the NHSE survey and Londonwide Survey. I understand there were over 4000 responses to the NHSE survey which was unprecedented and gave GPC the power to do some decent negotiating.

So, we spent 6 hours today debating this year's contract and the PCN DES. I am unable to share the details of the new contract or current PCN DES but I can say that the Exec has done incredibly well and have achieved a very significant watering down of the DES. The negotiations had only finished 12 hours prior to today's meeting and so what we were presented with, was very thin on detail. I think, as expected by the exec team, the contract changes were rejected as it was felt that NHSE was going to have to work a bit harder to put forward a contract that would support the current crisis in GP and repair the damage done by the initial draft specs. The Exec will now go back to NHSE and a second round of negotiations will begin.

There will be a further extra GPC meeting to discuss the contract following these negotiations and a special conference of England LMCs has been called to enable the profession to debate on the proposed contractual changes.

I think and hope that what we end up with may be OK.

Here is the link to the BMA statement.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/news/media-centre/press-releases/2020/january/bma-gp-committee-england-votes-down-contract-package-and-calls-special-conference>