

RCGP Briefing: Backlog of maintenance of NHS buildings and the impact on the capacity of the NHS to deliver services

November 2022

Investment in GP infrastructure

There are too many inefficiencies with GP infrastructure and in the system which are wasting doctors' time and making it harder to give patients the care they need. There is an urgent need for GP premises and infrastructure to be upgraded to account for increased demand, larger teams, and better integration between different sectors within health and care systems.

Our recent survey of GPs paints a worrying picture of a service in crisis. 1,262 GPs responded to our survey between 3 March and 4 April 2022, covering a cross section of doctors in different stages of their career and from across England.

Key findings of the survey regarding general practice premises showed:

- At least a third of GP premises are not fit for purpose, 90% of which are not able to accommodate the expanding staff team and practice teams do not have adequate digital tools to deliver high-quality patient care.
- 74% of respondents to our survey said that their practice does not have sufficient physical space necessary to accommodate new staff.
- 64% of GPs said their computer systems were not able to properly share information with hospitals.

What must be done to address the challenges with GP premises to improve the care that patients receive?

- We need £1 billion investment to make general practice premises fit for purpose, including sufficient space to accommodate expanded multidisciplinary teams and delivering digitally-enabled remote care.
- IT systems must be improved, created and implemented to make it easier for medical staff to share patient records and information about what they need to improve relationship-based care.