IDF MP email – Autumn Budget and NICs

Dear [name of candidate],

I am writing to bring to your attention my concern with the 2024 Autumn Budget statement and the corresponding increased rates of employer national insurance contributions (NICs), and to ask that you **raise this issue and advocate for the exemption to be extended to GP services in Parliament**.

I, alongside leading representative bodies such as the Independent Doctors Federation, Royal College of General Practitioners and BMA General Practitioners Committee, acknowledge the rationale behind exempting the NHS from the increased rates of employer NICs: to ensure that NHS capacity and resources are protected. However, the failure to extend this exemption to GP practices and private healthcare providers belies the essential role these organisations play in delivering critical healthcare services and effectively frames them as a separate healthcare system.

While often viewed separately, I believe that the UK has one healthcare system made up of public and private service providers. For the effective and efficient management of the health of the population, both sectors need to work together and receive government support. Failure to adopt this ‘one system’ approach will lead to underutilised GP services, private sector resources and an overburdened NHS.

GPs practices and private healthcare providers are a vital component of the healthcare system, providing necessary care, reducing the strain on NHS resources and supporting patient access to timely medical services. The employer NIC increases will impose a significant financial burden on these organisations, many of which are smaller practices with limited resources compared to larger NHS facilities. This risks impacting their ability to deliver services effectively and care for patients accessing private medical treatment due to increased operational costs.

I look forward to receiving your reply and seeing you advocate for policymakers to reconsider this decision and make assurances that GP practices are given the same protections as the NHS and the public sector.

Kind regards,

[your name]