

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

7 September 2021

### **Message from the Cabinet Secretary of Health and Social Care to all General Practice Teams**

As the new Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, I would like to put on record my personal thanks for the extraordinary efforts all General Practice teams are making throughout this pandemic.

You have continued to deliver during this incredibly challenging period, demonstrating an adaptability to maintain safe services. That is not to mention the enormous amount of mental health support practices have offered to patients, the pivotal role you have played in the biggest vaccination programme in our history as well as the national network you set up, from scratch and in just two weeks, at the very beginning of the pandemic to tackle Covid in the community.

This Autumn and Winter will no doubt bring their own challenges and your role in keeping the public well, as always, will be fundamental. It is important to keep yourselves well too – you are all heroic but you are only human.

My predecessor often said that General Practice was the bedrock of our NHS. I, too, am of the firm view that when primary care succeeds, the whole health system succeeds. I cannot emphasise enough how deeply your service day-in day-out and your views matter to me and the people of Scotland. I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can both to listen and to learn.

Kind regards



**HUMZA YOUSAF**

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
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