To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure that his Department’s guidance on removing patients from GP lists is followed by GPs.

Simon Burns (Minister of State (Health), Health; Chelmsford, Conservative)

The procedures which general practitioner (GP) contractors must follow when considering removal of a patient from their list are set out in regulations and are included in their national health service contract with their primary care trust. It is the responsibility of the primary care trust to take any resulting action should a contractor not follow these procedures.

Under the terms of its contract, a GP practice may remove any patient from its list of NHS patients if it believes that it has reasonable grounds for doing so, for example, if a patient has moved out of the practice area or has been violent.

No one should be left without access to a GP practice. If anyone who has been removed from a practice list has difficulty in finding another practice, the primary care trust may assign them to another GP contractor's list.

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