



Avon Local Medical Committee Limited

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To Whom It May Concern

Benefits and Housing – GP letters

Avon Local Medical Committee (LMC) is the body recognised by law as representative of all GPs in, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. This letter has been produced by the LMC for use by GP Practices.

The job of GPs is to provide medical care to their patients and they are not in a position to administer or to police the benefits system. It is not appropriate for GPs to be asked for letters of support or letters to confirm care needs. GPs are neither contracted nor resourced by the NHS to provide this service and do not have the capacity to do so. Time taken up with paperwork is time taken away from direct patient care. There are contractual and agreed methods for GPs to provide medical information to the Department for Work and Pensions to Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, and South Gloucestershire Council and to other agencies. These are sent to the GP Practice and GPs respond directly to such requests for information. Therefore, your GP cannot respond to your request for a letter.

Please show this document to whoever has asked you to get a GP letter. If they require medical information, they should write directly to your GP for this for which they may be entitled to charge, provided of course that you give your consent. They can contact the LMC if they require further clarification.

Yours sincerely

Philip Kirby
Chief Executive