

The different levies explained

There are two different types of levies for which funds are collected from GPs around the county. These are:

- Statutory levy
- National (Voluntary/GPDF) levy.

Statutory Levy

The Statutory levy is collected for the statutory functions of the committee, such as paying officers to attend meetings; running of the office, stationery etc. The Statutory levy is collected from every GP, from every practice in Gloucestershire on the basis of pence per patient. The voluntary levy too is collected on the basis of pence per patient but there is a possibility that not all practices have signed up to contribute to this, as it is voluntary.

National Levy (GPDF Voluntary levy)

The National Levy (previously called the Voluntary Levy) is deducted to fund the work of the General Practitioners Committee of the BMA. This is currently set at approximately 5.4p per patient. Each LMC has to make a contribution, which is calculated from the total number of registered patients within that LMC area. If practices do not contribute to the National Levy, then the practices which are prepared to contribute have to pay proportionately more. The funding for the GPC contributes to the Negotiating Team as well as to the Committee as a whole. It also funds national negotiations, which occur over a wide spectrum of topics. Additionally, there are approximately 15 full time employees who work in London, solely on behalf of GPs. As an LMC we distribute information produced by the GPC to all practices and this covers a very wide range of topics. Recently these have included guidance on:

- VAT.
- Issues to do with the PMS and GMS Contracts.
- How to claim Component 2 of the PBC DES.
- Various issues to do with Enhanced Services.

The funding of the GPC also contributes to legal advice, which is sought from a number of sources. Currently, funding from the National Levy is being used to seek legal advice regarding the imposition of a cap on GPs' pensions, the reneging on the Contract by the Department of Health and the attempt by some PCTs to terminate the PMS Contract. In addition, the LMC frequently works with the GPC on local issues and also for those practices who need help where national contact is required.