BMA House
Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9JP

Email: info.professionalfees@bma.org.uk

03 March 2026

Dear colleague

The Professional Fees Committee (PFC) consults and negotiates fees on behalf of doctors on a range of additional work that falls outside their NHS contracts including safeguarding work. There are no agreed fees for completing safeguarding reports or attending case conferences. Upon the committee taking advice from a King's Counsel, we write to set out PFC's position in relation to fees for safeguarding services.

Our view is that GPs are entitled to ask for a fee for safeguarding services as this work falls outside the scope of their GMS, PMS and APMS contract of employment.

It is important to note that GPs have a professional duty to assist with child protection procedures and provide relevant information to child protection meetings, if they are not able to attend them. This duty is clearly set out, under the heading '*Working in Partnership'* on page 19 of the GMC's own guidance: 'Protecting children and young people – the responsibilities of all doctors'. GPs would place themselves at risk of disciplinary action by the GMC if they fail to adhere to this guidance. Our advice is therefore to provide the relevant safeguarding services, but on the basis that a fee will be sought, indicating the rate of charge ahead of providing the service. I would therefore encourage you to agree a fee **in advance** of attending conferences or providing reports. You should notify requesting bodies that *reasonable fees* would be charged for such services, specifying your fee and referencing the Supply of Goods and Services Act. There is also a template letter to support you in your discussions with the local authority.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Reena Zapata, PFC lead at info.professionalfees@bma.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Dr Rob Barnett

Chair Professional Fees Committee