

John McDonnell MP

Member of Parliament for Hayes & Harlington
Constituency Office, Pump Lane
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Tuesday, 28 January 2025

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Secretary of State for Health and Social Care– Via Email

Our Ref: Shashikanth

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Dr Shashikanth - West London Medical Centre, 20 Pield Heath Road, Uxbridge UB8 3NG
and Church Road Surgery, Church Road, Uxbridge UB8 3NA**

I am writing on behalf of Dr Sashi Shashikanth

By way of background, Dr Shashikanth is a principal GP with two FMS teaching and training practices.

He has loyally served over 8,000 patients across both practices for over 15 years and has established a range of services to benefit his patients and is always open to new initiatives that would improve better health outcomes for the community

In 2015, GP practices were invited by the CCG to become part of a GP Network. However, he refused based on his patients not wanting their data shared as they feared that it would be shared with third parties.

Dr Shashikanth believed that by sharing this data, he would be acting contrary to the wishes of his patients and breaching his legal obligations as a data controller.

His concerns were reinforced by reports in the Health Service Journal that the National Data Guardian for Health and Social Care has written to all Integrated Care Systems, warning that “organisations could be processing confidential patient information without ensuring that the processing does not breach confidentiality”

Due to Dr Shashikanth not being part of a GP Network, he was issued a termination notice and the CCG terminated his contracts. This was done without any addressing his concerns about lawfully sharing his patient’s data.

He could have carried on with services such as blood work, cancer detection, diabetes care and mental health but he would not have been paid for them

This decision left him in a desperate situation and in genuine fear of bankruptcy

Dr Shashikanth had no choice but to take his case to the Court of Appeal

The ruling found that Dr Shashikanth had his contract terminated unlawfully; that the NHS Litigation Authority, now NHS Resolution, erred in law in determining that the CCG was entitled to terminate the

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contract when Dr Shashikanth opted not to join the local Primary Care Network and hand over confidential patient data to a private enterprise in contravention of GDPR rules and data protection

He is hoping that this is now the end of a very stressful five-year legal battle based on a decision taken by the now disbanded Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and taken forward by NHS NWL on behalf of NHS England (NHSE).

I met several times with some of his patients and they all raised concerns about how their doctor had been treated by the NHS bodies and how this impacted on his wellbeing

This whole ordeal has raised so many questions regarding the management of this case.

I have been made aware of other GP's who declined to join a PCN and share confidential patient data. Other practices in England have successfully come to local agreements with local ICBs /NHSE.

It begs the question as to why this case was not treated in the same way. If it had been, then this would have avoided the very costly legal challenge

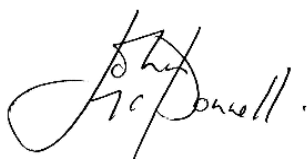
There is no doubt that this case alone would have cost a significant amount of money to fight in court and so I ask who was accountable for this decision and the agreement to sign off this cost?

Following the court judgment, I would ask that you liaise with NHSE and our Integrated Care Board to instruct them to reinstate his contracts in line with other PCN's and GP practices in other areas of England. This would avoid any further court action and the inevitable costs

I would also welcome your consideration to undertake a full examination of this case to ensure that other GPs are not put in a similar position.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance

Yours faithfully



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