To whom it may concern,

Monifieth Medical Practice is a medium/large sized surgery based in Angus on the Dundee/Angus Council boundary; its current population being 9470. In 2014 planning permission was granted to build 110 - 2/3/4 & 5 bedroom homes on the Ashludie Grange site adjacent to the practice; the completion of this build phase brought our population from 9206 to its current figure.

Concurrently, planning permission was granted for a build of 121 - 2/3/4&5 bedroom homes on the Victoria Grange site, Ethibeaton Road (400 metres from the practice); the building work here has just commenced. On completion this will place a further 290 souls onto our practice list. Further builds within our population catchment are already in the pipeline and are awaiting approval for planning permission.

I write to express our grave concerns that Monifieth Practice simply cannot sustain this level of growth going forward. Already we are compromised almost daily by demand outstripping capacity, and this despite bringing on board one new salaried GP and two Advanced Nurse Practitioners.

Planning permissions in Angus (and I suspect elsewhere in Scotland) is granted with no regard to the healthcare implications for the area into which these builds are placed, and this simply needs to stop, or at worst, Councils should at least have cognisance of the pressures these decisions bring upon already overloaded primary healthcare provision.

Clearly we try our very best to offer a service which is firstly safe for our patients and one which meets the needs of our population, but with a fixed practice boundary, no room for expansion within our current site and a lack of GPs in the employment market, potentially the net result will be a catastrophic failure of primary care services in many areas.

Some practices have already reverted to 2c, placing the management of public care and maintenance in the hands of Health Boards and placing an even greater strain on already exhausted high level budgets; admittedly, the root cause is not always an increase in list sizes. However, this trend is likely to accelerate if building is allowed to continue in areas where there is limited scope to expand health care provision, or where provision is already overstretched.
We are very aware that Councils are under remit to increase housing stocks within their boundaries, but can I just plea that proper examination of healthcare provision in those areas is taken into account when Council building decisions are considered.

Yours faithfully

Eric Blyth