



# Cameron Fund

*The GPs' own charity*

28 May 2024

Dear LMC Chairs and Secretaries

## **CHANGES TO SUPPORT FROM THE CAMERON FUND**

Over the last few years, the Cameron Fund has faced a huge increase in demand from GPs and GP Registrars in financial hardship. Unfortunately, this increase in demand has not been matched by an increase in income. Last year we were able to meet the demand by using our reserves, but this is not sustainable in the long-term. The Board of Trustees has looked long and hard at this situation and has made efforts to boost our investment income along with a detailed review of all aspects of our expenditure. As you sometimes refer applicants to us, we would like to tell you about the changes we have made to our support package.

### **Changes to our support**

#### GPs facing short term financial hardship

Our main criteria to access support from the Cameron Fund is that applicants must have been practising GPs in the NHS or UK armed forces for a minimum of 12 months. As always, the Board of Trustees will consider exceptional circumstances.

#### GP Registrars

Support to GP Registrars in financial hardship will be by way of interest-free loans for exam fees. This will be for a maximum of two attempts at each exam. As always, the Board of Trustees will consider exceptional circumstances.

#### Student Allowances

If the Cameron Fund is approached to support undergraduate children of GPs in financial hardship, we will signpost all applicants to the Society for the Assistance of Medical Families (SAMF) who support this group with Student Allowances.

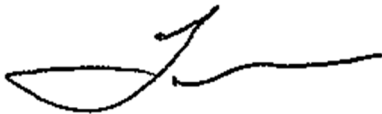
#### Long Term Beneficiaries

Our grant support for beneficiaries will normally last for up to two years. As part of this, we have partnered with other organisations to provide a package of measures to prevent beneficiaries becoming dependent on grant support. This package includes:

- referral to a licensed Money Adviser for advice on debts, benefits, income maximisation
- assistance with applying for NHS pensions
- free appraisals for applicants not currently employed
- coaching for applicants seeking to return to work as a GP
- careers coaching for those no longer able to work as a GP.

We hope this update to our support criteria will allow us to continue to help those in most need, facing short term financial hardship, and enable the Cameron Fund to keep doing so for many years to come. We will monitor the impact of these changes and will keep the situation under review. We will continue to look after the wellbeing of applicants and will ensure that those no longer eligible for our assistance are signposted to alternative sources of funding where possible. If there are any changes to our criteria we will share these with you. More details can be found on our website including how to apply at [www.cameronfund.org.uk](http://www.cameronfund.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Terry John', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Terry John**  
*Chair*