

Q1: Are there any guidelines on how many GP Practices/GPs there should be per population size/geographical area?

- There is no national guidance on the number of practices per geographical area because settlement patterns vary widely.
- Similarly, there is no set ratio of practices per population size. The key principle is that patients should have choice of GP.
- There is no upper limit on practice size. NHS Digital data shows 63 practices nationally are larger than the Melton provider, with the largest serving over 93,000 patients.
- For the number of patients per GP, there is no formal cap, but workforce planning typically considers factors like:
 - Average contact rate per 1,000 patients.
 - Appointment capacity per GP.
 - This is usually managed by the GMS contract holder, not the ICB. Performance is monitored through CQC inspections and commissioner oversight.

Q2: Does the situation in Melton meet those guidelines or is it failing to meet them?

- Based on available information, Melton is not failing any guidelines, as there are no formal limits on practice size or GP-to-patient ratios.
- Patients have choice within the provider's GP lists.

Q3: Are there other areas in Leicestershire with so few GP Practices for such a large population or geographical area?

- Melton's practice is one of the largest in LLR.
- The next largest non-city practice is Market Harborough Medical Centre, which has about 8,000 fewer patients than Melton.
- There is no concern reported about service quality there.

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