

Report on the Associations of Anaesthetist's independent practice survey

The Association of Anaesthetists Independent Practice Committee (IPC) works hard on behalf of members engaged in independent practice, responding to member enquiries and investigating aspects of independent practice as they develop. Previous surveys have suggested that around 40% of members undertake some form of independent practice but there has been no further evaluation of the issues. The current survey was conducted by the IPC to assess the demographics of members engaged in independent practice and to explore some of the issues facing members to inform the work of the IPC. 157 responses were received. The intention is to repeat this questionnaire in alternate years to allow trends to be followed and to give members engaged in independent practice an alternative way of contacting the IPC.

Q1-4

Demographics; the answers speak for themselves. This will be of most interest when the survey is repeated in future years.

Q5

60% of respondents work in either a formal partnership or a loose group. Partnerships were challenged at the time of the Competition Market Authority (CMA) investigation in 2014, and successfully defended by the Association.

Q6-7

Income; of interest for future surveys as well.

Q8-9

Spread of self-pay v PMI v NHS funded work; an apparent trend towards an increase in income from NHS and self-funded work with a decrease in income from PMI funded work.

Q10

A significant proportion of patients are required to pay a shortfall for care. It will be informative to see how this will change over the coming years.

Q11

A significant number of members have been threatened with de-recognition.

Q12

Free text responses are extremely useful to the IPC. They help us understand what are the main issues facing anaesthetists outside those issues raised directly via member enquiries.

The survey responses and the comments received have been analysed to identify trends that will continue to inform the work of the IPC. In particular, we are working with the Private Healthcare Information Network PHIN to understand how the requirements for disclosure of information that came out of the CMA enquiry into private practice will be applied to anaesthetists, considering the advantages to Association members of re-joining the Federation of Independent Practitioner FIPO, and planning to meet with some of the PMIs to discuss payment for pre-operative assessments

Thank you to all members who responded to this survey. The survey will be repeated towards the end of 2019.

Guy Jackson, Past Chair, IPC

Mathew Patteril, Chair, IPC



**Association
of Anaesthetists**