



Cameron Fund
The GPs' own charity

**Report from The Cameron Fund (The GPs' own Charity)
on the effect of COVID-19 on General Practice**

COVID-19 has had a multitude of effects on all levels of society and professions. General Practice and Practitioners have also been affected. The Cameron Fund recently held the quarterly Council of Trustees where trends were discussed and new cases assessed.

The first six months of the year showed an increase of new applications to the Fund of 47%.

A number of new applicants and existing beneficiaries had been significantly affected by the COVID crisis. Examples of adverse effects include an applicant shielding because of a chest condition, life events causing cash flow problems compounded by a lack of locum opportunities (two separate applicants) and an applicant who contracted the Coronavirus whilst working, but whose contract only entitled her to Statutory Sick Pay.

Existing beneficiaries have had a number of problems including shielding because of a serious medical condition and immune-suppressant treatment, non-availability of subsidised childcare and delays in administration preventing work.

The Cameron Fund is pleased and proud to support our colleagues but are concerned both by the current need and also the likely decrease in income over the next 18 months. Half of our income comes through our long-standing investment (initially negotiated from the Treasury by James Cameron) which heavily relies on dividends. Our investment manager has warned us that income next year will, in all probability, be significantly reduced. We also rely on donations from colleagues particularly LMCs and the collections at LMC dinners. Opportunities to engage with our colleagues is much less whilst conferences and dinners are postponed indefinitely.

We will continue to support our colleagues through difficult periods in their lives and find themselves in hardship and at risk of poverty.

To find out more about the various ways you can support the Fund's work phone 020 7388 0796, email info@cameronfund.org.uk or go to www.cameronfund.org.uk/for-lmcs/

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