I qualified as a Doctor in 1996 and have enjoyed a career as a GP in the Exeter and east Devon area since 2006. I was elected to the north and east subcommittee of Devon LMC in 2016, employed as a Medical executive in 2017 and appointed to the LMC Board shortly afterwards.  
Over these past six years I have developed a broad understanding of the challenges faced by all GPs- including those who choose a less conventional portfolio. I have a detailed grasp of the GP contract and as a member of the LMC negotiating team, a good understanding of how services outside of the contract are developed and brought to fruition. My portfolio contains key areas that have required prolonged and often complex negotiation to ensure appropriate terms and conditions for GPs.

Governments of the last ten years have been a disaster for the NHS and General practice. A successive reduction in real terms funding coupled with a negligent workforce plan has failed us and the general public. A widespread negative media campaign against GPs has made the profession increasingly unattractive compounding the workforce and operational challenge.

General practice cannot continue its current trajectory. There is no doubt that increased funding and a comprehensive workforce strategy will help to temporarily stabilise services but I believe that GPs must work together LMCs and the BMA to generate a robust counter-narrative for those issues that threaten the very existence of a health service that is free at the point of use.

I have represented GPs at the highest level, speaking for and against many policy motions at all National LMC conferences and I am not afraid to speak out when constituent GPs have asked this of me or when I feel it is necessary.

Representing the GPs of Somerset at a National level is a huge privilege and I am very keen to hear your concerns. I will provide a regular update to practices but also please feel free to email directly on [paul.hynam@nhs.net](mailto:paul.hynam@nhs.net)