

WE KNOW THAT...

YOU are finding it increasingly difficult to get an appointment with your chosen doctor as quickly as either you or we would like.... we want to explain why.

- There were 340 million GP consultations last year, up from 300 million 5 years ago compared with 22 million to A&E.
- Your GP is being asked to do more and more work for hospitals because they are under pressure too.
- Successive governments have given us more paperwork so less time to spend with patients.
- In addition we now have to attend management meetings about the structure of the NHS, have time out to prepare for Care Quality Commission inspections as well as spending time on educational meetings so that we can 'revalidate' and remain in practice.
- We can no longer limit the number of patients we have registered with us without reducing the services we provide to you.
- General Practices do 90% of the consultations in the NHS on less than 8% of the budget, 10 years ago it was 10% of the budget.
- All this means that young doctors don't want to be GPs anymore and established GPs want to leave the profession early.
- In Somerset, a survey this year shows that nearly 1/3 of GPs are to retire by 2020 with many others now expected to give up early.
- In the last 2 years GPs have only been able to replace 2/3 of doctors leaving their Practices

SO...

If you hear that we are not working hard enough and only want money to line our own pockets, please don't believe it. All we want is more time and less interference so that we can get on with what we have been trained to do - to help you and your families **get well, keep well and stay well.**