

This criminal sanctions will further disillusion general practice. There is already a high litigious behaviour in society and this will drive it further making it increasingly difficult to practice in patients best interests. I already have a duty of care to my patients but to introduce fear of personal criminal sanctions will increase my need to investigate and refer often inappropriately to make sure I have covered myself. It will make it so difficult to encourage trust and will impair Dr/patient relations. There will be increased fear of finger pointing from colleagues and secondary care. Will definitely cause me to retire even earlier from GP career which I love but the level of stress is just ever increasing with lack of political and public support. With increasing early retirement and difficulty recruiting new staff GP is on a very slippery slope downwards. Who in their right mind would choose to remain in general practice NI with the imposition of this policy.