

To whom it may concern;

I am a full time GP.

As clinicians we are already bound by a duty of candour as set out in the GMCs good medical practice. To twin criminal sanctions with a duty of candour will lead to a deterioration in the relationship I have with my patients, a deterioration in the clinical decisions I make on a day to day basis due to fear of litigation and an escalation of stress levels among a workforce already struggling with pressures ongoing with covid, hospital waiting times and increased primary care demand. I anticipate this will be a further reason for staff looking to leave their NHS work to move abroad or retire early.

The creation of a statutory individual duty of candour is unnecessary. There are already robust sanctions and regulatory frameworks in place. Adding an additional layer of statutory regulation will also only add to confusion for patients and staff alike. Evidence clearly suggests that criminalising healthcare and staff will not enable the creation of the culture needed for openness and honesty . Implementing this in isolation of the current processes, procedures and the lack of understanding of clinical practice will cause irreparable damage.