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Dear Underwood Patient

After much deliberation the Partners have decided to make a request to the NHS to reduce the size of our Practice Area.

What is the Practice Area?

The surgery has an NHS Registration Policy that:

- Only allows patients living within the Practice Area to register with us.
- Patients already fully registered who move outside the Practice Area will be asked to de-register unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- The Practice Area is currently 'Cheltenham Borough'.

What is the proposal?

The Practice Area will remain 'Cheltenham Borough', but not including Leckhampton, Charlton Kings, Prestbury or Swindon Village.

The new boundary is marked in red on the map below.



Why are we doing this?

We are facing the problem that the practice list size and age of patients is expanding and we have no way of preventing this. The table below shows how we are now caring for over 1000 more patients than we were 10 years ago.

Age Range	2014	2024
0-65	9132	9991
66-75	515	663
76+	520	766
Total	10167	11420

- Our Practice Boundary currently includes areas such as Swindon Village where extensive building of new housing is about to occur.
- We cannot expand our surgery space further as our building is at a size that is only just able to cope with our existing list. Moving location is not an option. We don't believe it will be in the best interests of our patients to move to a service where face-to-face contact between patients and clinicians is not encouraged.
- The NHS does not allow practices to close lists unless short-term for an 'emergency'.
- Our only option is to reduce our Practice Boundary

What is the Process for Changing your Boundary?

We have to seek the opinion of patients and other surgeries as part of the agreed process to alter the Boundary.

It is important that we do not discriminate against disadvantaged groups, so we have tried to be careful to remove areas that have better access to GP care than Underwood can provide, e.g. ones that have no direct bus routes

If I live outside the new Boundary will I be asked to register?

As long as you are not moving house you will remain as an Underwood Patient. For example we still have patients registered in villages outside Cheltenham from a time 20 years ago when our boundary was larger – e.g. Bishops Cleeve.

We would welcome any comments. Please telephone the surgery on 01242 580644, email us via underwood.reception@nhs.net or use the form at the following page on our website:

<https://underwoodsurgery.co.uk/navigator/ask-the-reception-a-question/>

Thank you



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Senior Partner
Underwood Surgery