



## The Medical Insurance Advisory Bureau

### Recent Case Study of a PCT Contract Dispute

“Dr Singh was a single handed Practitioner providing services on a PMS contract from The Health Centre. Dr Singh was aged 64 and had built up his practice to 2500 patients. The Surgery in The Health Centre was leased from the PCT and there were 2 other practices in the same building, both of whom were GMS.

The PCT was ordered to open a GP Led Health Centre and decided to do this in the Health Centre building. In order to create space they moved the two GMS practices to the top floor, and sent Dr Singh a letter terminating his PMS contract.

Dr Singh immediately called a meeting with the PCT asking for an explanation as he had always been a well regarded and high performing practice. At the meeting it was explained to Dr Singh that the lease was being terminated on notice, and that since the PMS contract was tied to the property that it was also being terminated. When Dr Singh asked why he had been selected, it was pointed out that his was the most expensive contract and that he would anyway 'be retiring soon'.

Dr Singh did not relish the thought of challenging the PCT and thought long and hard about taking retirement. However he felt his treatment had been unjust and called to check his insurance cover for PCT contract disputes. DR Solicitors quickly concluded that there was a good case against the PCT and were instructed to act under the MIAB insurance cover. In this case a solicitors letter to the PCT pointing out the inadequacies in their process and highlighting that Dr Singh had insurance to finance his legal costs was sufficient to persuade the PCT to retract their termination letter (*cover would apply in the case described*).”