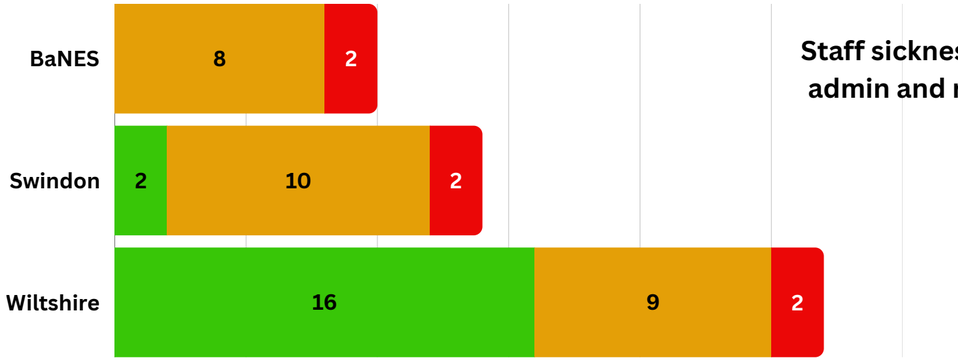
Wessex LMCs
General Practice
OPEL Report

# General Practice OPEL Report
# Bath & NE Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
# Week Ending Friday 23rd October 2026

WESSEX
Local Medical Committees

## Count of practices declaring their OPEL status.




Staff sickness ongoing in the admin and reception teams

OPEL 1 Practices are able to maintain patient flow & meet anticipated demand within available resources
OPEL 2 Practices are starting to show signs of pressure
OPEL 3 Practices are experiencing major pressures compromising patient flow
OPEL 4 Practices are experiencing escalating levels of pressure. There is increased potential for patient care & compromised safety.

## Appointment Data

For Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire practices - August 2026

Source: NHS Digital (data for the month of August 2026) Patient population 1,006,705 (as of 1st September 2026)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **501,126** Total appointments (all staff) | **301,406** Patients seen face to face | **40%** of patients who contacted their practice had a same day appointment |
| **14,900** Number of 'did not attend'appointments | **3,104** Hours lost from 'did not attend' appointments* | **296** Days lost from 'did not attend' appointments* |

*Based on an average appointment duration of 12.5 minutes & average 10.5 hours in a working day)

For more information about workforce, workload and funding, please visit our page: Local and National General Practice Data

## PRACTICE COMMENTS

Next routine appointment is 4 weeks out, extreme number of Duty GP calls every day, adding extreme pressure all round (114 Duty calls yesterday morning alone!)

Staff sickness. Increased pressure due to flu/covid vaccination season. Increased home visits. Increased patient demand. Staff on maternity leave.

Routine requests are being booked at 3 weeks, widespread sickness and high demand

Staff on annual leave as well as sick leaves means that we are busy, but managing

High levels of sickness and staff absence continue across the practice, resulting in reduced appointment capacity, delays in patient access and an increase in complaints. Locum GP cover remains difficult to secure. Additional remote GP support has been arranged, which has helped provide extra telephone consultations and alleviate some of the pressure on GP capacity.

Staff sickness and annual leave high across all departments.

73 urgent on the day consultations for the duty GP team. All other GP appointments filled. A dissappointing amount of 'did not attends' for the nursing team. Sickness in the patient advisor team which had an effect on call taking capacity.

Due to uncapped, unsafe working limits, we are at risk of burnout and are at maximum safe working limits.

GP reporting overwhelm with excessive admin and patient demand. This week we have experienced particularly challenging patients at reception and on phones. Planned sickness is still an issue for us.

OPEL 3: Sickness and demand outstripping capacity — Demand is high