

Dear Editor

GPs: From Family to Factory

Your recent article *In my 30 years as a GP, the profession has been horribly eroded* (22.2.22), is a Long Read long overdue. Dr Clare Gerada's description and judgement of the deracination of erstwhile personal family doctoring speaks for every GP I know who has worked through these decades of decline. I, too, was a Principal GP for 40 years, from 1976. The profession I joined was fuelled by senses of robust vocation, trust and community; navigated by shared experience and personal knowledge. The one I left was dispirited and exhausted by mistrust, remote regulation and lost with a profound sense of unbelonging.

How have we done this? We have coerced more autonomous and familiar family-like units into remotely regulated factory-like conurbations. And why have we done this? Because successive governments believed human welfare can be modelled on competitive manufacturing industries.

We have much to learn, and reclaim, from the past.

Dr David Zigmond

Author *If You Want Good Personal Healthcare, See a Vet: Industrialised Humanity: why and how should we care for one another?*

25 Ella Road, London N8 9EL

020 8340 8952