

Snakes and ladders



So you want to return to work as a GP? What clinical work have you done recently?

None, none at all, that's the point - I've been on sick leave for most of the last year.

Ah, so you're wanting some Locum work yeah? We've got a surgery you could do for us

Kind of you to offer, but that's not really what I need. I'm looking for support, not work.

Everyone finds it tough in practice these days. Come back to me when we can book you.

So you can't help me reintegrate myself then? That's a shame, I'll try somewhere else.

And what is it you want us to do for you? What's in it for us? We're very busy you know

Nothing initially, but if you can enable me to return to work, then I'm happy to do Locums

Don't need Locums here - too expensive - we're looking for Partners. You interested?

Longer term, maybe. But just now, I need to get myself off the starting blocks again.

Ah, you want us to help you. Sorry, not got the time. But keep an eye out for our job ads

Does this practice have capacity to re-enable me, give me access to refresh my skills?

Don't understand what you mean. Too busy to listen. Can you see patients for us?

Eventually, but to start with I need enablement, access to IT refresher training, a mentor.

Right now we're too busy to help. Come back when you can work, there's plenty here

Sighs inwardly at the short-sightedness of peers. And the professional isolation rolls on.

By **Dr Lucy Henshall**