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# Practices bid to close lists to new patients

Health spokesman blames increasing demand and staff shortages

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The current level of care delivered by GPs has been branded "unsustainable" after it emerged two surgeries in east Suffolk are trying to close their lists to new patients.

NHS England confirmed the practices – both of which are based in Ipswich but have not been named –

the
investigations

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had sought temporary permission to stop accepting new patients.

Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group said it was aware of the applications, but it stressed the move would not affect any patients already registered with the practices

A spokesman said: "This situation reflects the ever-increasing demand on services from the expanding local population and the on-going difficulties in recruiting GPs and practice nurses.

nurses.
"Ever-increasing numbers of

patients seeking treatment and too few resources is not a sustainable situation."

Ipswich MP Ben Gummer, who is also a health minister, acknowledged GPs were under pressure, though he stressed the Government was "trying to do something about it".

■ Full story: Pages 12&13

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