

Joint Training Committee Statement on the Scottish Government's Decision to not Impose a New Contract for Junior Doctors

Association of British Neurology Trainees Committee (on behalf of neurology trainees)

Association of Otolaryngologists in Training

Association for Palliative Medicine Trainees

Group of Anaesthetists in Training

National Dermatology Trainee Committee

Psychiatric Trainee Committee

Young Diabetologists and Endocrinologists Forum

We are group of committees that represent over 4,500 junior doctors in the UK and Ireland. Together we have been closely following the progress of the junior doctors' contract negotiations between the BMA and NHS Employers. We welcome the recent statement from the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, Shona Robison, reassuring us that the Scottish Government will not seek to impose a new contract on junior doctors¹. This follows on from the BMA Junior Doctors Committee (JDC) decision not to re-enter contract negotiations with NHS Employers and the recent decision by the Department of Health, that a contract will be imposed from 2016².

We are encouraged by the Scottish Government's decision to honour the current contract and protect those in Scotland from changes that risk losing integral contractual safeguards and moving away from recompense for evening and Saturday working. These are red line issues for our organisations, which we note is a view shared by the BMA and over 4000 junior doctors³.

Positive morale in NHS staff translates into excellent care⁴. An enforced contract will lead to irreparable harm to morale within the NHS workforce and a devastating rise in attrition rates. We hope that those on both sides of the negotiating table in England will keep patients' and doctors' welfare at the forefront of their minds, and that the stance taken by the Scottish Government is taken into account.

Our committees are not party to negotiations but through our communication networks we will keep all of our members updated and will work with other specialty groups to represent the interests of junior doctors and support the BMA JDC at what is a key time in all of our futures.

References

1. Puttick H., 2015. New working hours contract will not be imposed on junior doctors in Scotland. *Herald Scotland*, [online] 18 August 2015. Available at <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/13611464.New_working_hours_contract_will_not_be_imposed_on_junior_doctors_in_Scotland/?ref=rss> [accessed 15 September 2015]
2. British Medical Association, 2015. Response to government plans on junior doctors contracts. BMA Available at <<http://web2.bma.org.uk/pressrel.nsf/wall/0970A5B044BE787680257EC100561AF0?imgdoctors=&OpenDocument>> [accessed 15 Septemehr 2016]
3. British Medical Association, 2015. *Junior doctor contract: 10 reasons why we are not re-entering negotiations*. BMA. Available at <<http://bma.org.uk/working-for-change/in-depth-junior-and-consultant-contract/ddrb-recommendations-analysis-for-juniors/10-reasons-for-not-reentering-2015-junior-contract-negotiations>> [accessed 15 September 2015]
4. Maben J, Peccei R, Adams M, Robert G, Richardson A, Murrells T. and Morrow E. Patients' experiences of care and the influence of staff motivation, affect and wellbeing. Final report. NIHR Service Delivery and Organisation programme; 2012. Available at <http://www.netscc.ac.uk/hsdr/files/project/SDO_FR_08-1819-213_V01.pdf> [accessed 15 September 2015].