

**Joint Training Committee Statement on the Imposition of a New Contract for Junior Doctors**

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**

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

Ophthalmologists in Training Committee

Psychiatric Trainee Committee

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Trainee Committee

Young Diabetologists and Endocrinologists Forum

We are group of committees that represent over 9000 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. In August the BMA Junior Doctors Committee (JDC) decided not to re-enter contract negotiations with NHS Employers because the changes proposed risked 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 doctors<sup>1</sup>.

Following the JDC decision the Department of Health announced that a contract would be imposed from 2016<sup>2</sup>. This is unacceptable. Positive morale in NHS staff translates into excellent care<sup>3</sup>. A poorly thought out, enforced contract will lead to irreparable harm to morale within the NHS workforce, an increased incidence of burnout in junior doctors and a devastating rise in attrition rates<sup>4</sup>.

We welcome the statements made by both the Scottish and Welsh Governments, reassuring us that they will not enforce a contract on junior doctors<sup>5,6</sup>. 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 both the Scottish and Welsh Governments are 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

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4. Cooper C & Henderson E., 2015. Numbers of doctors registering to work overseas could reach unprecedented record. *Independent*, [online] 21 September 2015. Available at < <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/numbers-of-nhs-doctors-registering-to-work-overseas-could-reach-unprecedented-record-10511755.html>> [accessed 22 September 2015]
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