

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
SW1A 2NS

27 April 2016

Dear Secretary of State,

I'm writing to you again as the first full walkout of doctors in this country reaches a close in order to re-state my firm commitment to breaking the current impasse on the junior doctor contract. As you know, my priority – and that of junior doctors across England - has always been to resolve this issue through negotiation. However, as you also know, this simply can't take place with the threat of imposition hanging over our heads.

The last two days have demonstrated yet again the strength of feeling and continuing resolve among junior doctors, with the resounding majority of eligible doctors choosing to take action. At the same time, this was never where junior doctors wanted to be and we need to work together in the best interests of patients.

Last night, you stated yet again that there was only one outstanding issue to resolve. This is not the case – the issues which you set out in your letter earlier this week are inextricably linked in reaching a resolution in which junior doctors can have confidence. Following the publication of the proposed contract in March, these include:

- Protection against working excessive hours without appropriate rest and breaks during and between shifts
- Fair acknowledgement of the impact and definition of shift patterns and rotas, including the issues of non-resident on call, night and twilight shifts and definition of weekends
- Pay for all work done
- First refusal for locum work and national locum rates
- Transitional arrangements
- Robust safeguards, including exception reporting and appeals mechanisms
- Trusts' ability unilaterally to vary contract terms

These sit within the broader context of morale, quality of training and work-life balance, issues critical to the current and future generations of junior doctors.

Chief executive: Keith Ward

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Junior doctors are critical to the delivery of consistent, high-quality emergency care across seven days. As the very people already working across the week, it is simply counter-productive that they continue to be represented as a block to this.

I want to work with you to build trust between the Government and junior doctors and to ensure that becoming a doctor is still an attractive career choice in this country. We're all aware of the significant challenges the NHS faces and we will need motivated, engaged doctors, supported by first-class training and fair working conditions, to address these and deliver the quality of patient care to which we are both committed.

So, my offer still stands: lift imposition so that talks can resume. I will meet you and your team at any time to deliver the above.

Given the urgency of the situation, I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Johann Malawana
Chair, BMA junior doctors committee