

# **AoMRC**

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## **Trainee Doctors' Group**

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Academy Trainee Doctors Group  
10 Dallington Street  
London  
EC1V 0DB

**The Right Honourable David Cameron, MP**  
**The Prime Minister**  
**10 Downing Street**  
**London**  
**SW1A 2AA**

16 February 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges' Trainee Doctors' Group (ATDG) condemns the Secretary of State for Health's decision to impose a new contract on junior doctors in the strongest possible terms and requests a return to negotiations with the BMA Junior Doctors' Committee immediately.

We wrote to the Secretary of State on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 to express our concerns that the imposition of a contract on all doctors in training represented a significant risk to patient safety and the maintenance of a sustainable medical workforce. In the intervening months, we have been pleased to see that many of the changes we asked for have been accepted, in particular the introduction of proper safeguards to limit the hours junior doctors can be asked to work. These were achieved through meaningful dialogue and negotiation.

The determination to deliver immediate reform has meant that the final part of those negotiations concerning Saturday working, have been curtailed prematurely. This is particularly distressing as we felt a fully negotiated settlement was within reach.

The decision to unilaterally impose a contract in opposition to a significant proportion of the total medical workforce has further damaged the morale of an essential part of a profession that already feels undermined and under-valued. We specifically cited concerns about impact on patient safety, impact on training, and impact on recruitment and retention of staff. The stated aim in imposition is to restore certainty, but we caution that imposition has already generated further unrest amongst Junior Doctors and may precipitate an exodus of experienced staff from England to other jurisdictions within the UK and overseas.

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Those who deliver patient care around the clock disagree with the assessment of 'fair and reasonable', and continue to highlight concerns about patient safety. Imposition of a contract that fails to recognise the onerous nature of out-of-hours work will inevitably reduce recruitment and make retention of staff much harder. This will have a particular impact on those specialties which are already under-subscribed such as General Practice, Paediatrics, Psychiatry and Emergency and Acute Medicine.

We once again urge your Secretary of State for Health to withdraw the imposed contract and complete a negotiated settlement that will provide for the long term future of healthcare in this country. Trainees can only participate in a meaningful review of morale and working conditions if they have evidence that their concerns will be taken seriously and addressed, and would only be able to participate in such a review with a commitment to implementing the recommendations of that review.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Jon Bailey**

Chair of the Academy Trainee Doctors' Group of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges  
Academic Clinical Fellow in Emergency Medicine  
President of the Emergency Medicine Trainees Association

**Mr Mustafa Rashid**

Vice Chair of the Academy Trainee Doctors' Group of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges  
Doctoral Fellow in Musculoskeletal Sciences  
President of the British Orthopaedic Trainees Association

**Dr Rebecca Weerakoon**

Registrar in Acute and General Medicine  
Scottish Academy Trainee Doctors' Group Chair

**Miss Rhiannon L Harries**

Clinical Research Fellow in Surgery  
President of the Association of Surgeons in Training

**Dr Samantha Mills**

Foundation Trainee  
Foundation Trainee representative to the ATDG

**Dr David Little**

ST5 Radiology  
Chair of the Royal College of Radiologists Junior Radiologists Forum

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**Dr Saif Ahmad**

ST6 Clinical Oncology  
Outgoing Vice-Chair Royal College of Radiologists Oncology Registrars' Forum

**Dr Matthew Prior**

ST6 Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Chair of the RCOG Trainees' Committee

**Dr J Frost**

Clinical Research Fellow  
RCOG Trainee Executive Lead

**Dr David James**

ST7 Paediatric Emergency Medicine Doctor  
Chair RCPCH Trainee Committee

**Dr JP Lomas**

ST7 Anaesthetics and ICM, North West

**Dr Chloe Fairbairns**

ST7 Anaesthesia  
Representative to ATDG from Trainee Committee of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

**Dr Victoria Mason**

ST6 Occupational Medicine  
Deputy Representative for Faculty of Occupational Medicine

**Dr Mark McGivern**

ST5 Public Health  
Chair of the Faculty of Public Health Specialty Registrars Committee

**Dr Matt Tovey**

ST6 Forensic Psychiatry  
Chair of the Psychiatric Trainees' Committee

**Dr Judith Harrison**

ST4 Psychiatry  
Immediate Past Vice Chair of the ATDG and Creating Supportive Environments lead

**Dr Alice Wort**

Clinical Research Fellow in Microbiology  
Chair of Trainee Advisory Committee at the Royal College of Pathologists

**Dr Katherine Walesby**

Clinical Research Fellow Geriatric Medicine  
Chair of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh Trainees' & Members' Committee