

Motion to support engagement with the referendum on the new Junior Doctor Contract in England

Proposed by: Stephen Naulls (Student Trustee, Deputy Chair & Welfare Lead BMA Medical Students' Committeeⁱ)

Seconded by: Fatima Ali (Imperial BMA MSC Representative), Aroon Shah (Imperial BMA MSC Deputy Representative)

Union notes:

1. The previous policy passed by this Council on 12th January 2016 titled '[motion to oppose the imposition of changes to Junior Doctor Contracts](#)ⁱⁱ', which is set to lapse on 31st July 2019.
2. The British Medical Association (BMA) is the Trade Union which represents doctors and medical students across the United Kingdom.
3. In 2016, following a period of negotiations between the Government and the BMA, Junior Doctors across England took part in a period of Industrial Action in opposition to proposed changes to the Terms and Conditions of Services (TCS) for Doctors and Dentists in Training, which was overwhelmingly supported by medical studentsⁱⁱⁱ.
4. In August 2018, a review of the new contract was launched and the Joint Negotiation Committee (Juniors) – comprising of stakeholders from both the BMA and the Government - met for the first time.
5. Since the commencement of the review, all parties have worked collaboratively, as equal partners, to gather information from their respective stakeholders and establish a shared source of data that could be used to inform negotiations.
6. Following completion of the review, the BMA re-entered into formal negotiations with the Government.
7. Upon completion of the negotiations, the negotiated changes are to be put to BMA members in a referendum taking place in June 2019, which, if accepted, would bring the BMA's dispute with the Government to a formal end^{iv}.
8. Medical students in their penultimate and final year will receive a vote in this referendum.

Union believes:

1. The outcome of this referendum will have a clear and demonstrable impact on the working lives of thousands of students in our university once they graduate.
2. ICU and ICSMSU therefore have a responsibility to advertise this referendum to our membership and encourage students to vote in the referendum.
3. Our representatives on the BMA Medical Students' Committee will be key stakeholders to engage with during the referendum period.

Union resolves:

1. To mandate relevant ICU and ICSMSU Officers to ensure medical students are aware of the referendum and encouraged to vote in it by:
 - a. Using social media and emails to advertise relevant BMA materials throughout the referendum period.
 - b. Jointly arranging a physical stall between ICU, ICSMSU, and the BMA to inform penultimate and final years of the referendum.

- c. Arranging lecture shout-outs for penultimate and final year students on the referendum (where the timetable and summer holidays permit it).
- d. Lobbying our Faculty to make direct contact with penultimate and final year medical students and encourage them to take part in the referendum.
- e. Regularly contacting our representatives on the BMA Medical Students' Committee to explore additional ways to support the referendum process.

ⁱ <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/committees/medical-students-committee>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/dbfile/pbf/119>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/influence/key-negotiations/terms-and-conditions/junior-doctor-contract-negotiations/junior-doctor-contract-review-2018-2019>

^{iv} <https://www.bma.org.uk/collective-voice/influence/key-negotiations/terms-and-conditions/junior-doctor-contract-negotiations/update-about-the-junior-doctor-contract-review-2019>