

BRITISH CONGENITAL CARDIAC ASSOCIATION

BCCA Statement on industrial action by junior doctors

30 November 2015

BCCA note the massive vote by junior doctors in favour of industrial action over the proposed new contract. Such a majority cannot be taken lightly and it is a cause for concern as it indicates how morale and confidence in the future of our profession has fallen to such a low level among junior doctors.

We recognise that the situation is a serious cause for concern among patients and their families as well as the public and the wider NHS.

BCCA believes this overwhelming vote was not taken frivolously without any consideration of the potential consequences and BCCA members both junior and senior will never allow patient safety to be compromised by any action.

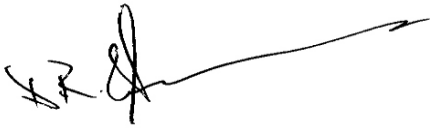
BCCA firmly believes that the future of our specialty and that of all specialties is critically dependent on attracting and retaining high calibre junior doctors to train for leading clinical roles in the future NHS. It is a serious cause for concern among BCCA senior members that our trainees feel so undervalued that they are driven to such drastic action. Though many senior doctors have reservations about industrial action the current new contract proposals are viewed as a significant deterrent to attracting and motivating the best trainees that will form the backbone of the NHS in years to come. The increasing demands of training in modern healthcare provision 24/7 impose considerable sacrifice of leisure and rest time and this should be rewarded accordingly. Clinical research forms an important/essential component of training and should be included in any contract or job description as equal to direct clinical training.

In short BCCA takes a supportive stance toward the junior doctors so long as no action should result in harm to our patients.

We agree with the comments of the RC Physicians that:-

- patient care is vulnerable in the longer term to the degradation of morale and motivation of healthcare professionals and, in the short term, to strike action
- our trainees must feel valued, supported and motivated to deliver high-quality care
- no progress or solution will be reached without negotiation
- confidence in the profession, and ultimately in employers and the government, is placed at serious risk by continued failure to resolve these issues

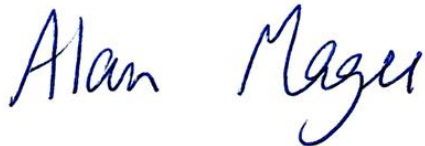
On behalf of BCCA Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Anderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor David Anderson
Consultant Cardiac Surgeon
President, British Congenital Cardiac Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Burch'.

Professor Mike Burch
Honorary Secretary, British Congenital Cardiac
Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alan Magee'.

Dr Alan Magee
President Elect, British Congenital Cardiac
Association