

Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care

Sent via email

2 April 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to express our strong concern with the DDRB once again being late in submitting its report to Government. We are sure you will share our frustration, as this jeopardises the crucial progress that we have made since July's general election, and the reforms of the doctors' independent pay review process that were previously committed to. In view of this situation, we ask that Government commits to (1) publishing the DDRB's report without delay following receipt by DHSC, and (2) entering into negotiations with the BMA in good faith if the DDRB's recommendations do not demonstrate sufficient progress towards restoring doctors' pay.

Over many years, the DDRB's delays in submitting their report, followed by the interval between that and the Government announcing the subsequent pay awards, have had a significant impact on our members, a corrosive impact on the perceived competence and independence of the DDRB itself and a loss in faith that doctors' pay erosion will be addressed. It was, therefore, a key component of the consultant deal, which ended their dispute last year, to [include a commitment](#) that, 'the Government will look to implement the outcome of each year's DDRB process as soon as practically possible, with the aim of the pay award being known at the start of the financial year from the 2025/26 pay round'.

It is now evident that the Government will not be able to honour this commitment, despite our writing to DDRB on 3rd March, to make clear that it is imperative that the DDRB submits its report to Government in a timely fashion in order for the award to be received by our members as close to 1st April 2025 as possible. In our letter to the DDRB, we highlighted the risk that further delays could lead us to re-entering dispute with the Government.

Re-entering dispute is not something the BMA is considering lightly and, as above, we have tried to expedite the DDRB's report ourselves. You will be aware of the significance of this delay, and we are keen to understand what steps you have taken or may be taking to address this.

Without progress on these commitments, our committees will inevitably feel the need to consider taking further steps, including re-entering dispute. The BMA's resident doctors' committee has already determined to re-enter dispute on behalf of its members in England on 9th of April if the delay has not been satisfactorily addressed, with other committees considering their actions after this date.

Chief executive officers: Neeta Major & Rachel Podolak

Registered as a Company limited by Guarantee. Registered No. 8848 England.
Registered office: BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP.
Listed as a Trade Union under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974.



We hope this letter impresses upon you the urgency of addressing the DDRB's delay. We look forward to working with you and your officials to resolve this.

Yours sincerely



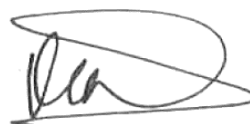
Dr Melissa Ryan
Co-chair, BMA resident doctors committee



Dr Ross Nieuwoudt
Co-chair, BMA resident doctors committee



Dr Helen Neary
Co-chair, BMA consultants committee



Dr Shanu Datta
Co-chair, BMA consultants committee



Dr Ujjwala Mohite
Chair, BMA SAS committee