

SM/JB

20 April 2016

Dear fellow union member and user of the NHS,

I am a junior doctor working in psychiatry at Manchester Royal Infirmary. As I'm sure you are aware, we junior doctors are engaged in a struggle against a contract that the Department of Health is threatening to impose on us.

That contract is unsafe and unfair.

We have tried everything we can to continue negotiations, but they have refused to come back to the table. This has pushed us into a position none of us wanted to take. We will be undertaking a full walk-out on 26-27th April. During this time, all care, including for emergencies, will be provided by consultants and non-training doctors.

I will not seek to explain all of the problems with the contract in this letter, except to say that it seeks to:

- remove penalties for trusts forcing doctors to work unsafe hours
- include Saturdays in normal working hours
- introduce measures that it admits will discriminate against women

It is not hard to see how introducing this contract for junior doctors will create an environment in which similar conditions could be introduced for other workers. In other words, if we tolerate this, then the nurses (and physiotherapists, cleaners, occupational therapists, etc.) will be next. As such, this is everyone's fight.

Therefore, I would like to invite you and your fellow union members to support us on the picket lines on 26 and 27 April. We will be present outside Manchester Royal Infirmary from 8am. We will seek to make you as welcome as possible.

I have included links below for further information on the location of the picket lines, and the contract itself.

In solidarity,

Dr Piyush Pushkar

Trainee in psychiatry and BMA rep, Manchester Mental Health Health and Social Care Trust

<http://oneprofession.bma.org.uk/>

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