In your area: BMA Northern Ireland

Supporting you locally
2017-18
Our mission:
We look after doctors so they can look after you.

Our values:

**Expert**
We are an indispensable source of credible information, guidance and support throughout doctors’ professional lives.

**Committed**
We are committed to all doctors and place them at the heart of every decision we make.

**Reliable**
We are doctors’ first port of call because we are trusted and dependable.

**Challenging**
We are unafraid to challenge effectively on behalf of all doctors.

**Leading**
We are an influential leader in supporting the profession and improving the health of our nation.
Offices and facilities in your area

Our office for Northern Ireland is located in Belfast, from where we represent over 5,600 members across Northern Ireland. The National Director in Northern Ireland is Claire Armstrong.

**Office location**
BMA Northern Ireland, 16 Cromac place, Cromac wood, Ormeau road, Belfast BT7 2JB

**T:** 028 9026 9666  
**E:** BMANorthernIreland@bma.org.uk

**Video conference facilities**
You can use Scopia® video conferencing to connect remotely to meetings from a desktop or mobile device. Download the Scopia app to connect to a meeting on a mobile device or click on http://webvc.bma.org.uk if you’re joining from a desktop and then enter the meeting reference number.

- **Dial-in:** Council room 0203 033 3947  
- **Meeting ref:** 619695  
- **Spiderphone:** 028 9026 9692

- **Dial-in:** Committee room 0203 033 3946  
- **Meeting ref:** 619652  
- **Spiderphone:** 028 9026 9681

**Social media links**
Website: bma.org.uk  
Twitter: twitter.com/BMA_NI  
Facebook: facebook.com/BritishMedicalAssociationNI

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Northern Ireland national director  
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Representing our members

Northern Ireland Council
– representing members at a national level
Northern Ireland council’s vision is to improve the health of the people of Northern Ireland by representing the doctors who care for them. We will make a real difference to members’ working lives by influencing local decision makers and defending the most advantageous working circumstances applicable to their collective and/or individual situations.

Northern Ireland council’s remit is to consider and deal with all matters which are specifically of concern to Northern Ireland. It represents the profession as a whole and usually meets three times a year.

The council consists of a number of members who are directly elected by the membership; and the chairs of branch of practice committees in Northern Ireland, together with Northern Ireland members of UK council. Voting members are directly elected to serve for a term of three years.

The BMA is the only place where doctors of today and tomorrow, of all specialties, grades and place of work, come together. It is Northern Ireland council’s job to lead and to stand for the beliefs and values of the medical profession.

Our recent achievements have included the creation of the BMA/Department of Health (DoH) HR engagement forum as a mechanism of communicating and negotiating directly with Department; inputting members’ views into significant service and structural reviews including the Bengoa Review and the Donaldson Review, and influencing local implementation of Shape of Training by securing seats on the Department of Health medical education policy group.

We have also been successful in making members’ views heard at the Assembly on medical workforce planning. We have had amendments added to the Health (miscellaneous provisions) Bill to include banning smoking in cars where children are present and we continue to lobby for increased investment in general practice.
Northern Ireland Northern Ireland council’s current work

BMA Northern Ireland council has cross branch of practice subcommittees to draw together members around a particular theme. Subcommittees currently active are:

**Information technology subcommittee**
This subcommittee allows members to focus on influencing the development of IT within health and social care.

**Legislative and policy subcommittee**
This subcommittee facilitates BMA Northern Ireland council members to have input into the responses we make to legislation and government policy.

**Public health forum**
This is a cross branch of practice subcommittee that considers local Northern Ireland public health issues and government strategies. It promotes BMA policy on public health, including recommendations from the BMA Board of Science.

Some key influencing areas identified by Northern Ireland council are:

– Transformational change and reform: aiming to influence this through engagement and dialogue with government, employers and decision makers

– Doctors’ terms and conditions of service: aiming to influence decision makers to deliver the best possible terms and conditions of service

– Restoring investment in general practice: lobbying and influencing for implementation of the recommendations in the BMA Northern Ireland GP strategy

– Medical workforce planning: aiming to influence government to produce a comprehensive and effective medical workforce plan that is fit for the present and future.
BMA Northern Ireland – engagement and influencing

Regular meetings between branches of practice committees and Northern Ireland Government and officials have been established to optimise BMA Northern Ireland’s influence:

– The Northern Ireland general practitioners committee (NIGPC) has Dom Negs (domestic negotiations) meetings every six weeks with the primary care civil servants based at the Health and Social Care Board

– The BMA/Department of Health HR Engagement Forum, led by the Chair of Northern Ireland council, meets directly with senior officials in the DoH including the Director of Workforce Policy and the Deputy Chief Medical Officer to discuss issues relating to the working conditions of doctors and wider strategic topics

– The MEPG (medical education policy group) was set up to look at all areas of modernising medical careers and involves officials from BMA, DoH, Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency and Trust officials. This is also the oversight group for all Shape of Training issues in Northern Ireland. It meets three time per year and has BMA representation from Northern Ireland consultants committee, NIGPC and Northern Ireland junior doctors committee and other branches of practice as required.
Representing members at a local level

Doctors and medical students are also represented through branch of practice committees, divisions, and our network of LNCs (local negotiating committees) and LMCs (local medical committees).

Committees meet regularly to consider issues affecting the medical profession and patient healthcare in Northern Ireland and are supported by a small staff team.

Every BMA member in Northern Ireland belongs to one of four local divisions, which represent members in all disciplines geographically. Each has a secretary, a chair and an executive committee including local representatives for each branch of practice. BMA divisions submit motions to the ARM (annual representative meeting) which, if passed, become national BMA policy.

We have also established a network of five LNCs in healthcare trusts throughout Northern Ireland and one in the Public Health Agency. These committees ensure that the voice of the medical profession is heard by management in the workplace.

Your representatives make sure that the interests of doctors are protected in negotiations on terms and conditions of service through these LNCs.

Representatives of all local LNCs meet three times a year – as a regional LNC – to discuss all Northern Ireland issues and to share best practice.

There are also four LMCs across Northern Ireland, which represent GPs in particular areas. LMCs contribute to the wider activities of BMA Northern Ireland but are not BMA committees, rather they are independent statutory bodies with which health boards (as holders of the GMS contract) must consult. LMCs also offer professional advice to health boards, NHS bodies and local GPs. Members of the LMC are elected by local GPs.
representing members locally: branches of practice committees

BMA Northern Ireland has seven branch of practice committees. Representatives of branches of practice meet Northern Ireland ministers and Northern Ireland DoH officials on a regular basis to discuss topics of mutual interest. Each committee represents and acts for all doctors in the branch.

NIGPC (Northern Ireland general practitioners committee)
NIGPC has authority to deal with and negotiate devolved health issues affecting GPs working in Northern Ireland. It is the only body that represents all GPs and although it has autonomy on Northern Ireland healthcare matters, it also feeds into the UK general practice committee.

Chair: Dr Tom Black

NICC (Northern Ireland consultants committee)
NICC's remit is to consider all matters affecting those who are engaged in medical consultant practice in Northern Ireland. It makes representation to the Department of Health, keeps the UK consultants committee informed on consultant issues in Northern Ireland, and liaises, collaborates and coordinates with them on UK matters.

Chair: Dr Anne Carson
Representing members locally: Branches of practice committees

**NIJDC (Northern Ireland junior doctors committee)**
The NIJDC represents and acts upon issues that affect junior doctors in training in Northern Ireland.

Chair: **Mr Chris Hoo**

**NIMASC (Northern Ireland medical academic staff committee)**
The NIMASC represents and acts upon issues that affect medical academics in Northern Ireland.

Chair: **Dr Kieran McGlade**
Representing branches of practice

**NISASC (Northern Ireland staff, associate specialists and specialty doctor committee)**
NISASC represents staff grades, associate specialists, clinical assistants, hospital practitioners and other non-standard, non-training ‘trust’ grades.

Chair: Dr Carole Cairns

**NIMSC (Northern Ireland medical students committee)**
NIMSC represents medical students at Queen’s University Belfast and acts upon all matters affecting their interests.

Chair: Ms Molly Kerr
Representing branches of practice

**NIPHPvC (Northern Ireland public health policy virtual committee)**
NIPHPvC represents all public health doctors in Northern Ireland on matters relating to medicine, health and healthcare within the country. The NIPHPvC also keeps the PHMC (public health medicine committee) informed of the circumstances related to practice in Northern Ireland.

Chair: **Dr Vinod Tohani**
Representing members locally: BMA Northern Ireland divisions

All BMA members belong to a local division. These bodies provide an opportunity for members to discuss issues that impact on all branches of a practice and to debate local matters with other members in the area.

Honorary secretaries for each division:

- Eastern Division: Dr Mugilan Anandarajan
- Northern Division: Dr David Hutchinson
- Southern Division: Dr Arnie McDowell
- Western Division: Dr Ailbe Beirne

For more information please contact:

Avril Campbell
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T: 028 9026 9669

Alison Kinnaird
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Representing members locally: Local Medical Committees (LMCs)

There are four LMCs in Northern Ireland, each representing GPs within their areas. LMCs are independent statutory bodies which offer professional advice to GPs, NHS bodies and health boards. The LMC conference takes place annually, and locally LMCs hold various educational and social events throughout the year.

LMC Committee chairs

**Eastern LMC**
Dr David Ross
david.ross@saintfield.gp.n-i.nhs.uk

**Northern LMC**
Dr Barney McCoy
drbgmccoy@gmail.com

**Southern LMC**
Dr Arnie McDowell
arnie@tangerine.org.uk

**Western LMC**
Dr Brendan O’Hare
oharebj@yahoo.co.uk

For more information please contact your local LMC.
Representing members locally: Local Negotiating Committees (LNCs)

LNCs are established in each healthcare trust where doctors are employed, and within the Public Health Agency. They make sure that the voice of doctors is heard in the workplace and that the interests of the profession are protected in local negotiations.

LNC committee chairs:
- Belfast Trust: Dr Laurence Burke
- South Eastern Trust: Dr Mugilan Anandarajan
- Northern Trust: Dr David Farren
- Southern Trust: Dr Peter Maguire
- Western Trust: Dr Padhraic Conneally
- Public Health Agency: Dr Gerard Waldron

RLNC (regional local negotiating committee) chair:
- Dr David Farren

For more information please contact:
- Alison Kinnaird
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- Claire Whitford
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Policy and committee services support

Our policy and committee services team is here to help you

BMA Northern Ireland has seven branch of practice committees. Representatives from each of these committees meet Northern Ireland ministers and Northern Ireland DoH officials on a regular basis to discuss topics of mutual interest. Each committee represents and acts for all doctors in the branch.

We work to provide you with the support and expertise needed to ensure that your committee functions appropriately and that your voice is heard so that it can be taken into account by policy makers at the head of government when consulting on and drafting new legislation.

We engage with members, seeking out their views and experiences, in order to respond effectively and robustly to external consultations, inquiries and legislative proposals on behalf of doctors and medical students. We assist and support committee members when giving oral and written evidence to Northern Ireland Assembly committees, provide full briefings in advance and accompany members to meeting with MLAs.

The BMA Northern Ireland webpages on policy contain details of current areas that we are seeking your views on. The webpages also host copies of policy responses we have submitted.

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NIGPC contact

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NIC, NICC, NISASC contact

Patricia Mills
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NIJDC, NIMASC, NIMSC, NIPHPvC contact

Hilary Nesbitt
Executive officer
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Jenna Maghie
Senior policy executive
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Industrial relations support

We employ a team of experienced and specialist staff to support members in all branches of practice. We provide advice on terms and conditions of service and take up issues on our members’ behalf with employers, and represent members at grievance disputes and disciplinary hearings.

We also undertake detailed negotiations and consultations with the Department of Health and Trust employers, making sure that the voice of the medical profession is heard, and that doctors’ views are effectively communicated at every level.

**Lucinda Wright** (employment adviser)
T: 028 9026 9663  E: lwright@bma.org.uk
Local contact for: Southern Health and Social Care Trust; Western Health and Social Care Trust; Northern Health and Social Care Trust.

Responsible for advising on Industrial relations issues to Northern Ireland junior doctors committee.

**Laura McGovern** (employment adviser)
T: 028 9026 9679  E: lmcgovern@bma.org.uk
Local contact for: Belfast Health and Social Care Trust; South East Health and Social Care Trust; Public Health Agency.

Responsible for advising on Industrial relations issues to Northern Ireland junior doctors committee.

**George Hynds** (senior employment adviser)
T: 028 9026 5682  E: ghynds@bma.org.uk

Responsible for advising on Industrial relations issues to: Northern Ireland medical academic staff committee; Northern Ireland public health policy virtual committee.

**Christina Neely** (assistant secretary)
T: 028 9026 9662  E: cneely@bma.org.uk

Responsible for advising on Industrial relations issues to: Northern Ireland council; Northern Ireland consultants committee; Northern Ireland general practitioners committee; Northern Ireland staff, associate specialists and specialty doctor committee.
Strategic communications and public affairs

The strategic communications and public affairs team are an integrated function that works to ensure that your voice is heard in the media and make certain your expertise and knowledge is taken into account by policy makers.

We work with local media to keep them informed about issues of concern to members. This involves developing news and feature ideas and working with local media outlets to persuade them to cover our areas of interest.

We also respond to enquiries they have about various health stories and we have BMA spokespeople available to be interviewed on these topics. The team ensures anyone who is doing a media interview is trained, briefed and confident about the key messages they need to get across before they do the interview.

We also work with the communications team in London to make sure anything they are working on takes into account the situation in Northern Ireland. We make sure that BMA Northern Ireland is featured on the BMA website and on BMA connecting doctors, and that Northern Ireland stories are in BMA News.

We work with our various committees to produce newsletters and communications covering the issues relevant to their branch of practice. This allows committees to keep in touch with their constituent members and for them to feedback their thoughts and views. We also use social media – mainly Facebook and Twitter – to promote the work of the BMA, to publicise events and to engage with members.

We have established strong links with elected representatives and policy advisers from all political parties, which we use to lobby effectively on BMA Northern Ireland’s agreed priorities. We arrange and facilitate meetings with key MLAs, particularly those who sit on the health committee at the Assembly, to discuss issues affecting doctors.

We also arrange and facilitate meetings with the Minister for Health, key officials in the Department of Health, including the permanent secretary and the chief medical officer, special advisors and key decision makers in other government departments.

We fully support members prior to these meetings with detailed briefing papers and preparatory meetings. We accompany members to all meetings.
Strategic communications and public affairs

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Member engagement support

The member engagement team manage recruitment, retention and marketing – including development and delivery of all training events for BMA Northern Ireland members. The team provides support for the four BMA Northern Ireland divisions and the ARM (annual representatives meeting).

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Member engagement support

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## Childcare and dependent care

You can claim for reasonable childcare costs incurred while attending BMA meetings as follows:

- The expenses should be those which are necessary, reasonable and additional to the care costs you would be paying had you not been attending a BMA meeting on the day in question. For example; an additional amount paid to a casual carer because of an earlier start and/or later finish; paying for childcare or dependent care on a day when you would otherwise be looking after the child/children or dependent person yourself.

- All claims made for childcare and dependent care and associated expenses will be considered on an individual basis. In making such claims, members should submit a separate sheet to the relevant committee lead with their expenses claim detailing the expenses incurred.

- The BMA has established a ‘Family Friendly Fund’ in order to enable all members of the Association to participate fully in current expenses-qualifying activities. For more information go to bma.org.uk/about the bma/equality and inclusion/care guidelines

Contact the relevant committee secretary in advance of booking travel for more information and to seek approval of additional costs.