Dear Colleagues

24 February 2017

We are fast approaching the 2017 ARM and many of you will shortly be considering motions for submission on behalf of your constituents.

As mentioned in my previous letter to you on 15 December 2016, we are trialling a new approach to the ARM this year that utilises in-house expertise to highlight topical areas of interest emerging on the health-policy horizon, as well as identifying any gaps in policy, or policy ambiguity.

I am pleased to announce that a series of in-depth and informative Pre-ARM briefing papers have been completed on the following topics and are enclosed for your consideration.

1. Implications of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union
2. Achieving sustainability
3. Decriminalisation of abortion: A discussion paper from the BMA
4. Equality and inclusion
5. Career choice and training pathways
6. Global Health: Achieving change for the world’s most vulnerable
7. Health and human rights in immigration detention

Just to reassure you, your division or committee will of course be able to generate motions outside of these briefing areas - this new approach is not designed to limit the scope of your motions, but to act as a helpful tool.

One of the BMA’s strengths is that we receive motions on any BMA-appropriate subject our members feel should be raised. As part of the member voice and democratic structures programme, the Open Policy project has been looking at ways to enhance our policy development processes by providing the highest quality support to members, using the best analytical techniques and exercising timely approaches to policy formation. To that end, these briefings have been designed to help inform your debate with colleagues and aid your decisions at ARM 2017.

You will also have the opportunity to request personal and tailored motion drafting advice by emailing Info.motions@bma.org.uk where members of BMA policy staff can provide you with information and factual advice, up until the deadline for receipt of motions (Friday 7 April 2017, 9 am). More information can be found at: www.bma.org.uk/writingmotions

Electronic versions of each briefing can be found on the main ARM webpage. Should you have any questions or require additional hard copies, please contact Jacqui Connolly at jconnolly@bma.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing you in Bournemouth.

Yours sincerely

Anthea Mowat
BMA Representative Body Chair