Statement from BMA Council on BFAWU action

The BMA works to protect the employment rights of doctors and is aligned to many other medical workers unions to ensure that colleagues across health settings can be supported to deliver the best possible care to patients. We also recognise the contribution that all workers make and understand the fundamental duty of a union to protect the rights of all workers to safe employment under fair conditions. For this reason we support of ongoing action by BFAWU members working at restaurant chains Wetherspoons and McDonalds to secure a living wage and fair working conditions.

The BMA supports the recent and ongoing action by BFAWU members working at fast food restaurant chains Wetherspoons and McDonalds to secure a living wage and fair working conditions.

As the trade union and professional association for doctors and medical students in the UK, our members see first-hand and on a daily basis the impact which precarious employment practices, poverty pay and hostile working environments have on physical and mental health. The impact of poor living standards is reinforced by the stress of struggling to meet financial demands and, in some instances, of debt management.

The BMA stands squarely behind the BFAWU’s Fast Food Rights campaign and associated actions aimed at improving the pay, employment terms and wellbeing of these workers. By failing to adopt fair remuneration and tipping policies, to offer guaranteed working hours and to recognise trade union rights, these companies are not only exploiting their employees but are placing additional stress on our overstretched NHS.