

At the end of August 2018, the new members of the reformed Juniors Joint Negotiation Committee (JNC(J)) formally met for the first time. The main focus was for the British Medical Association (BMA), NHS Employers (NHSE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to begin the 2018 review of the 2016 Terms and Conditions of Service (TCS) for Doctors and Dentists in Training, in line with the commitment set out in the TCS:

“The BMA and NHS Employers will jointly commission in August 2018 a review of the efficacy of the contract”.

All parties have agreed to enter into a formal collaborative bargaining process, as equal partners, to jointly review the effectiveness of the contract.

Five working groups, each with relevant representation from employers and the Junior Doctors' Committee (JDC), are to consider a range of data and evidence on how the contract is working.

The five broad themes covered by the groups are:

1. LTFT, flexible training and equalities;
2. Pay structure and transitional pay protection;
3. Safety and wellbeing;
4. Workforce issues;
5. Training issues.

Representatives of Health Education England (HEE) will be involved in the group looking at training issues, and the groups will be supported by an analytical team including staff from the BMA, NHSE and DHSC.

Each group will submit a written report of their findings to the JNC(J) at the end of the year, and this evidence base will be used to inform subsequent negotiations between the BMA, NHSE and DHSC on any changes to the contract.

Following the conclusion of this process, any package of negotiated changes will be put out to consultation with BMA members and, if accepted, the BMA's dispute will be ended and the revised contract collectively agreed.