Exception reporting
myth vs reality

**MYTH #1**
The reporting system is excessively cumbersome

**REALITY**
Exception reporting should be relatively quick and easy – particularly once junior doctors have become used to the system or software used by a trust. The form only asks a few simple questions and should be quite a smooth process. The BMA junior doctors committee is working with software providers to ensure the systems are effective and easy to use for trainees.

**MYTH #2**
Your exception reports will become mired in bureaucracy

**REALITY**
The process is designed to be simple and smooth with exception reports passed up a chain of recipients if necessary. The initial respondent has a set period of seven days to respond so the process will be carried out quickly.

**MYTH #3**
It won’t change anything

**REALITY**
Things are already changing. Areas of the country are already seeing junior doctors paid for the actual time they work or being given time back. And at least one hospital trust is employing more staff as a response to concerns raised by the system.

**MYTH #4**
The guardians will be too busy to respond to the reports

**REALITY**
Each guardian must report to the trust board on a regular basis and many of these reports will be public. Being too busy will simply not be an excuse and many guardians have already put a lot of work into ensuring the process has teeth and is as smooth as possible.

**MYTH #5**
The guardians will be hostile

**REALITY**
The guardians who have taken up roles have done so because they want to be part of the system, and the role is to be an advocate for junior doctors and a champion for safe working hours. The contract details the performance review process for the guardian, and the steps junior doctors can take to challenge a guardian who is not acting independently.

For more information and guidance go to bma.org.uk/exceptionreporting