Civil and public service committee  
ARM report 2021

The Civil and Public Services Committee (CPSC) represents considers and acts on matters affecting medical staff employed by government departments. As a committee that has a wide and varied membership, our efforts continue to focus on establishing our membership and what their roles within the remit of the committee.

The pandemic has continued to cause challenges for doctors working in the public service, and the committee met twice in the 2020-21 session.

Following a previous survey of our membership, the committee identified clear inconsistencies with how members have chosen to categorise themselves within the civil service membership grades, which makes engagement challenging. We are looking at membership categorisation and identifiable titles to widen our reach. We will be continuing to encourage members to update their employment details.

Identifying our membership

The CPSC is undertaking another membership analysis, seeking to identify additional doctors working in the public service by using Freedom of Information requests to key Government agencies/departments. It is the hope of the committee, to then canvass these areas of work for additional BMA members, and then explore the legality of having the BMA recognised as the union for those employees.

Committee ways of working

The committee continues to discuss ways of working in the future. With meetings having been virtual since the start of the pandemic, many have found this to be conducive since members often needed to travel from great distances to get to BMA House. While the committee hopes to meet in person at least once a year, members have discussed various ways to discuss issues and outcomes without having to set formal meetings (including better use of the ListServer, online forums, etc.).