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Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
Department of Health and Social Care

Sent via email

27 June 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to inform you that consultants in England have voted overwhelmingly in favour for industrial action. 71% of consultants voted in the ballot and 86% voted in favour of industrial action. This result now provides consultants with a clear mandate to take industrial action.

We have already given advance notice of potential dates for industrial action, for services to plan appropriately. Of course, consultants would not consider industrial action lightly, this would always be a last resort. Therefore, we call on the Government to present our members with a credible offer, in the hope that industrial action can be averted.

As you will be aware, we have been in constructive discussions with your officials about possible solutions to this dispute, but we have not made sufficient progress to avert a ballot for industrial action.

We are calling on the Government to commit to begin the process of addressing our decline in pay and undertake meaningful reform to the DDRB that fully empowers the DDRB to make an independent assessment of what doctors should be paid, considering historical pay erosion. It is not too late to avert industrial action.

I also want to be clear that our industrial action, should it take place, will take the form of Christmas Day cover, commencing at 7am on 20 July for 48 hours. Consultants take their responsibility for patient safety seriously, that is why we have already provided advance notice on potential strike dates, so NHS Trusts can manage lists and minimise the impact on urgent patient care.

We look forward to meeting with you urgently to discuss how we can resolve this dispute and avoid industrial action by consultants in England.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Vishal Sharma
BMA Consultants Committee Chair

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