

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

Sent via email

17 August 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Following our correspondence in June earlier this year we have held preliminary talks with your officials on what can be done to improve the working lives of SAS doctors and, these talks are progressing. However, significant progress is still to be made to avoid the BMA England SAS committee moving forward with an indicative ballot for industrial action.

We believe that making the SAS grade a positive career choice is vital for the NHS. SAS doctors make up an essential part of the NHS workforce, but we are deeply concerned about the rate at which these doctors are leaving the NHS. It is essential we take significant steps now to improve SAS doctors' working lives and reward them appropriately, to reverse the damaging effect that years of being undervalued has had to this highly experienced group.

On 20 September the BMA SAS Committee will meet to decide whether to proceed to an indicative ballot for industrial action. I would much rather present the committee with positive meaningful reforms for SAS doctors that we have agreed with your government. I hope we can meet soon to make meaningful progress on these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ujjwala Mohite, Chair BMA's SAS Committee

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