



Department  
of Health

*From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health*

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Professor Dame Sue Bailey  
Chair of the Academy of Royal Colleges  
10 Darlington Street  
London  
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**- 5 MAY 2016**

Dear Sue,

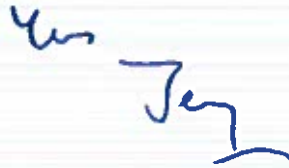
Thank you for your offer to broker a resolution to the current dispute between the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Government.

Clearly, the process for introducing new contracts is already well underway, and we remain committed to the introduction of a new contract from August. However, in response to your call for a five-day negotiating period to consider the process of introducing a new contract and suspension of the threat of further industrial action we are willing to play our part.

We will pause introduction of the new contract for five days from Monday should the Junior Doctors' Committee agree to return to talks. I have already made clear that we are happy to address with the BMA a range of non-contractual issues. I would therefore expect that discussion of the contractual issues will need to be focused on the areas that the Junior Doctors' Committee (JDC) of the BMA and NHS Employers agreed were outstanding in February; and not revisiting the 90% of issues that were agreed, including the cost neutrality of the contract.

The JDC have previously backed away from their own written agreement made through ACAS to negotiate on unsocial hours and Saturday pay. Despite numerous concessions made by Sir David Dalton on this issue, they would not consider any move away from their initial position. In light of this I hope you can agree with our position that any talks should not proceed unless we have written agreement from the JDC that they will agree to negotiate substantively and in good faith on this single biggest outstanding area of disagreement and that they would ratify and recommend any negotiated agreement to their members.

I want to thank you again for your personal commitment to the resolution of this dispute and your leadership of the independent review of junior doctors' experience of their NHS training and employment. I look forward to discussing all of these issues with you in more detail when we meet later today.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jer Hunt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**JEREMY HUNT**