



To: GMB NHS Committee, GMB Ambulance Committee, GMB NHS CDNA Committee, GMB NHS, Ambulance & CDNA Lead Organisers and National Organising Team

January 2016

Dear Colleagues

Happy New Year.

We start the New Year with Junior Doctors announcing strike dates and Student Nurses marching to save the Student Nursing Bursary. We have also agreed to support the NHS Campaigns Together Conference being held on Saturday, 30th January 2016.

For ease I have drafted the attached newsletter for you to issue amongst your NHS membership. Please note support for the NHS strike can only be demonstrated in members own time. Therefore, members are encouraged to support the junior doctors on their breaks, lunchtimes or at the start or finishing of their shifts.

JUNIOR DOCTORS STRIKE ACTION

Confirmed junior doctors strike dates at the time of writing this communication are as follows:

12 January 2016

Emergency care only between 8am on Tuesday, 12 January and 8am on Wednesday, 13 January (24 hours)

26 January 2016

Emergency care only between 8am on Tuesday, 26 January and 8am on Thursday, 28 January (48 hours)

10 February 2016

Full walkout between 8am and 5pm on Wednesday, 10 February

Please note the junior doctors' strike is only taking place in England.

BMA have set up a specific website setting out all the details of the junior doctors' dispute. The website also includes an online map showing which hospitals are being picketed and which is regularly being updated. There is also a leaflet to the public. All these details can be found at the following link. BMA have titled their dispute 'We are one profession' but please note only the junior doctors are taking strike action. The rest of the NHS workforce should assume duty at work as normal. Any concerns with patient care should be raised in the usual way.

<http://oneprofession.bma.org.uk/>

This above link takes you to a range of BMA online resources and should keep you up to date with everything you need to know about the junior doctors' dispute. Please note the last dispute was postponed at the 11th hour. Despite my best efforts to keep you all updated, please do keep an eye on the above website, if you are keen to understand the most current updated position at any given time.

Please do forward any photographs taken from the picket lines so we can use them in future NHS communications.

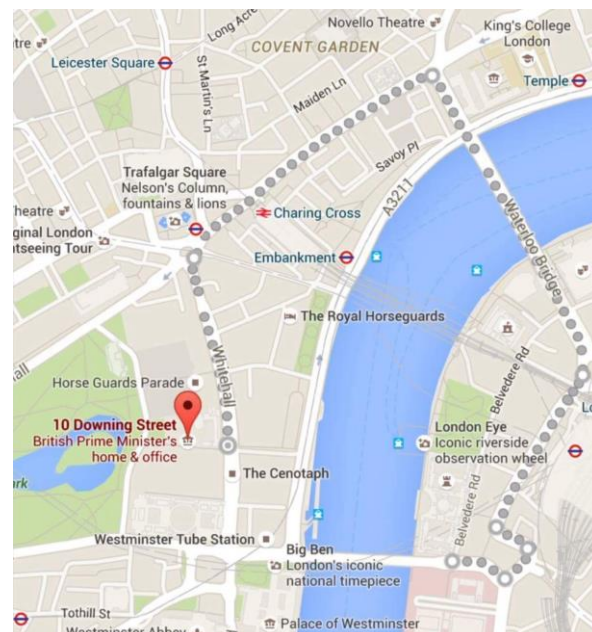
STUDENT NURSES - SAVE THE NHS BURSARY MARCH

In my last newsletter I provided an update on one of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Chancellor announced the scrapping of Nursing Bursaries for future students who decide to opt for a career in Nursing. Replacing the grants with loans will have serious consequences on the future planning of the workforce in the NHS. Student nurses have launched a campaign asking the government to review their policy position on this. An adjournment debate has been called for on the 14th January, 2016.

You can support the campaign as follows:

- Petition <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/113491>
- Write to your MP asking them to support the campaign
- A number of marches are being planned for Saturday 9th January 2015. One in London and one in Newcastle. The campaign is being led by student nurses and unions are supporting this campaign. Do let me know if any of the GMB regions want to get more involved in this campaign so I can liaise where appropriate.

Details for the London March is as follows - Meet at St Thomas Hospital, Westminster Bridge 12pm. March down York Road to Waterloo Bridge and then across to the Strand. From there marchers will make their way down Whitehall to Downing Street.



NHS CAMPAIGNS TOGETHER CONFERENCE

Our NHS continues to be under an unprecedented attack by a Tory government that has frozen budgets since 2010 and forced almost all trusts into deficit – with more and bigger cuts to come. 2016 will see many more trusts returning deficits and this may have an impact on NHS staff terms and conditions. GMB has always supported the wider NHS campaign and will continue to do this throughout 2016.

We know ministers are discussing the imposition of charges, as desperate commissioners begin to exclude services from the NHS, creating a new postcode lottery.

Services continue to be fragmented and many of them privatised under Andrew Lansley's disastrous "reforms", a bill we strongly objected has seen the social care sector forced to the point of collapse: GPs are holding a crisis conference. Mental health patients are carted hundreds of miles to find treatment. NHS staff are being forced to threaten strike action to defend their pay and conditions.

Because of the unprecedented crisis the GMB alongside other health unions and campaign groups recognise the need for a stronger movement to fight back, joining forces where we agree, sharing lessons of what works and what doesn't to continue to build the wider support needed for the NHS and staff.

That's why the Health Campaigns Together Campaign has been launched – it's a fresh attempt to bring together the main health unions alongside national and local campaigns.

GMB will be supporting this conference and I hope those local to the area can attend this important conference.

Conference details are as follows:

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY, 2016

London Welsh Centre

Gray's Inn Road London

10.30am – 4.00pm

Register at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/defending-our-nhs-tickets-19746374939>

Conclusion

Notwithstanding our absolute priority in consolidating the strength of our membership and to address the challenges the Trade Union Bill will bring to our NHS membership, 2016 is likely to be a testing year. Therefore, building our membership and supporting our frontline representatives will continue to be my priority for the sector as well as the wider NHS political campaigning we need to continue throughout 2016.

I look forward to working with you in 2016.

Best wishes



Rehana Azam

Acting National Secretary - Public Services Section

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