

The Right Honourable Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

23rd September 2015

Dear Jeremy,

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow write on behalf of our Fellows and Members throughout the UK to support the letter sent on 18<sup>th</sup> September from the other UK Colleges.

The priority of all Colleges is high-quality patient care, achieved through the highest standards of education, training and assessment. This largely depends on the retention of a world-class medical workforce. The proposed changes to the contracts for doctors in training risk jeopardising our shared ambition for the future of the NHS by undervaluing and demotivating a group of doctors already under significant pressure. They represent the future and we risk discouraging such able young doctors from training in the acute medical specialties or losing them to international health systems.

The NHS in England appears particularly vulnerable, having almost 20 Trusts in special measures and another 27 requiring intensive support; adding a recruitment and retention crisis will raise locum costs still further and could compromise patient care.

We urge you to critically review the impact of the DDRB recommendations, and look forward to the opportunity to discuss how best to retain our valued trainees for the benefit of the NHS and the public your government serves, both now and in the future.

Yours Sincerely,



Prof Derek Bell, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh  
Mr Ian Ritchie, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh  
Dr Frank Dunn, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow