

Professor Derek Bell
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
9 Queen Street
Edinburgh
EH2 1JQ

26 April 2016

Dear Professor Bell,

Thank you for your letter of 25th April on behalf of yourself and the Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Royal College of Surgeons.

Firstly, let me reassure you that there will be no change in the Scottish Government's decision not to impose the junior doctor contract in Scotland. I believe that we will secure the best health service and the best staff in Scotland through negotiation around our joint objective of delivering the best possible care and I am pleased that throughout my time in office we have been able to achieve that.

I share your concerns regarding the imposition of the contract in England and the demotivating impact it could have on the profession. A long drawn out strike is no good for any part of the NHS and the refusal to return to the negotiating table sends, in my view, the wrong message to the profession as a whole.

Following your letter I have today written to the UK Government urging them to lift the imposition of the contract and to return to the negotiating table.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Sturgeon
First Minister of Scotland

3 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh EH8 8PJ 

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