# Junior Doctors and Government Begin Mediation to Resolve Pay Dispute in England



### Junior Doctors and Government Enter Mediation to Resolve Pay Dispute in England

Junior doctors in England and the Government have commenced mediated talks, aiming to resolve a protracted pay dispute. This development comes after more than a year of regular strikes by junior doctors, organized by the British Medical Association (BMA), calling for pay restoration.

The BMA's junior doctors' committee, co-chaired by Dr. Robert Laurenson and Dr. Vivek Trivedi, announced the initiation of an "intensive phase of talks," featuring an external mediator to help facilitate the discussions. The co-chairs expressed hope that an independent mediator could help in restoring trust and achieving a credible solution.

Health and Social Care Secretary Victoria Atkins confirmed that a preferred mediator had been agreed upon, expressing optimism that the mediation process could provide a resolution. Atkins underscored her commitment to ensuring patient care while addressing the concerns of junior doctors.

The Government noted that junior doctors had already received a pay increase of up to 10.3% for the last financial year, and additional investment was available to address the ongoing dispute.

Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, described the agreement to enter mediation as a positive step. He highlighted the need for various actions to improve doctors' working conditions, emphasizing the importance of resolving the dispute.

Junior doctors have conducted 10 rounds of strike action since the start of the dispute, significantly impacting NHS operations. NHS England reported that over 1.4 million appointments had been rescheduled since the strikes began in December 2022.

The latest strike action, held from February 24 to 28, 2024, resulted in the postponement of 91,048 appointments, operations, and procedures.

Key Figures: British Medical Association, junior doctors, Government, Health and Social Care Secretary Victoria Atkins, NHS Confederation CEO Matthew Taylor.

Key Dates: Dispute ongoing for over a year with recent mediation talks commencing pre-May 15, 2024.

Location: England.