# Junior Doctors in England to Strike for Five Days Over Pay Dispute



Junior doctors in England are set to strike for five days from June 27 to July 2, 2024. The industrial action, organized by the British Medical Association (BMA), is part of a long-running dispute over pay. The BMA is demanding pay increases of up to 35%, which they argue is necessary to restore salaries that have not kept pace with inflation since 2008.

The strike will begin at 7 am on June 27 and end at 7 am on July 2, covering six days in total. The timing of the strike comes just two days before the general election on July 4. The BMA junior doctors committee co-chairs, Dr. Robert Laurenson and Dr. Vivek Trivedi, have stated that the action could have been avoided if the government had made a credible pay offer.

Junior doctors' basic pay currently ranges from £32,300 for first-year doctors to £63,100 for the most senior. The government had previously offered an 8.8% pay rise for the 2023/24 financial year, with a 10.3% increase specifically for first-year doctors. An additional offer of 3% was also made but rejected by the BMA.

Emergency services like A&Es will remain open during the strike, though previous walkouts have led to cancellations of elective care. The BMA claims junior doctors have faced more than a 25% pay erosion in real terms over the past 15 years and are demanding full pay restoration.

The last strike by junior doctors occurred four months ago and led to significant disruption across the NHS, including the cancellation of over a million appointments and operations since the strikes began in 2022.