

Taking Better Care of Those Who Take Care of Us

www.savedoctorslives.com

Enter your address here

Enter date

Dear Enter name of MP here

Campaign to Make Junior Doctors' Working Hours Safe

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern over the unsafe hours which junior doctors work and to urge you to actively support the campaign to make them safe - see www.savedoctorslives.com.

Junior doctors work hours which are far in excess of those worked by the general population. We expect superhuman efforts from them but they are not supermen or superwomen. They are as susceptible to the effects of fatigue as the rest of the us. Indeed, in the 2019 National Training Survey of over 50,000 UK doctors conducted by the GMC, nearly a quarter of junior doctors have reported that they feel burnt-out because of their work. As a result of this, safe, high quality patient care is compromised. It has been shown that doctors who experience burn-out are twice as likely to make mistakes, such as incorrect diagnoses or wrong prescriptions. According to a 2017 report produced by the University of Manchester for the GMC, preventable harmful medical errors occur in 1 in 20 patients. The same study found that patient satisfaction is three times more likely to be lower when doctors are physically, emotionally and mentally exhausted – core signs to identify burn-out.

Taking Better Care of Those Who Take Care of Us

www.savedoctorslives.com

Too many junior doctors suffer from fatigue as a result of their working conditions. Their working hours need to be reduced significantly to safer levels as a matter of urgency. The changes which need to be made are as follows:-

1. Junior doctors should not work more than 48 hours in any 5-day period
2. Working periods should be followed by 2 days off
3. Actual working hours should be recorded.

As your constituent, I ask that you raise the issue of excessive junior doctors' working hours with the Government and call on them to implement these changes as quickly as possible. Junior doctors should not have to work the excessive number of hours they do or to experience the fatigue which results. We must not reward their commitment and dedication with exhaustion. We must take better care of those who work so hard to take care of us.

Yours sincerely,

www.savedoctorslives.com