



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Industrial action

Why are unions striking?

Trade unions representing some NHS staff are in dispute with the Government over the 2022/23 pay award. A number of the unions have balloted their NHS members to take part in industrial action. As a result, Junior Doctors and Consultants across our Partnership are striking on the dates listed below:

- Tuesday 19 - Wednesday 20 September: Consultants
- Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 September: Junior Doctors
- Monday 2 – Thursday 5 October: Junior Doctors and Consultants

Further information is available on the individual union websites regarding the reasons for the ballot, and the decision by members to strike.

Are all Junior Doctors and Consultants across the Partnership going on strike?

It is up to each individual to decide whether they wish to take strike action in line with the British Medical Association ballot. It may not be clear until the day of action how many colleagues are taking action, but we are planning for every eventuality to ensure there is minimum impact to service user care.

What does this mean to you and the care you receive?

There will almost certainly be disruption to some appointments, but we will aim to contact, in advance, any service user whose appointment we need to cancel and re-schedule it at the earliest opportunity. If you don't hear from us, you should attend your appointment on strike days, as usual.

We are working with other trusts and union representatives to ensure safe care for our service users. We are doing everything we can to run services for service users in greatest clinical need.

If you are in hospital or need admission to hospital, we are ensuring that there are enough both Junior Doctors and Consultants in all our inpatient units to ensure these services continue to run safely – we have been able to do this effectively during previous periods of industrial action and will be able to do so moving forward.



What if you need emergency care or experience a mental health crisis?

Please use our [Mental Health Crisis Assessment Service](#) (MHCAS) and [Crisis Lines](#) instead of visiting A&E. Our service offers a calm and therapeutic mental health setting to see the majority of emergency mental health presentations and represent an improvement on the service previously offered in busy emergency departments. More information is available [here](#).

If my appointment is rescheduled, will I be put back to the bottom of the waiting list?

Any appointments that need to be rescheduled will be done so as a priority.

What is a Junior Doctor?

Junior Doctors are qualified doctors in clinical training. They have completed a medical degree and can have up to nine years of work experience as a hospital doctor, depending on their specialty. All Junior Doctors work under the supervisor of a Senior Doctor.

What is a Consultant?

Consultants are Senior Doctors that have completed full medical training in a specialised area of medicine. They have clinical responsibilities and administrative responsibilities in managing Specialist, Associate Specialist and Specialty Doctors (SAS) and Junior Doctors. After graduating from medical school, it takes around six to eight years to become a consultant.