

BMA Scotland Public Affairs Department
Pension Reforms - Communications Activity
16 January 2012

The following paper provides Scottish Council and National Branch of Practice Committee members with information on the communications activities and coverage on the proposed reforms to the NHS pension scheme achieved since August 2011.

Press Releases:

- 28 December BMA Scotland leader warns continued attacks could lead to the long term damage of NHS
- 17 November BMA Scotland condemns pension reforms as a 'tax' on health workers
- 7 October BMA Scotland issues rallying call to doctors to reject pension plans
- 19 August Doctors demand that Scottish Ministers make public their plans for NHS pension reforms
- 2 August BMA calls for urgent consultation on pensions review in Scotland

Media coverage:

10 January

- Herald P.6 Council workers reject pension deal (BMA mention)
- Scotsman P.8 Council staff reject final offer on pension (BMA mention)

31 December

- Herald P.3 BMA canvasses doctors on striking over pensions (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley) *including leader comment*
- Scotsman P.1 Doctors threaten industrial action on pensions (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley) *includes comment piece by Brian Keighley and leader comment*
- Daily Record P.2 Doctors on brink of work-to-rule (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley) *includes case study of Alan Robertson*
- Daily Mail P.43 GPs may strike as anger grows over pension reform (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
- Daily Express P.9 Doctors threaten strike action over pension payments (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
- Aberdeen Evening Express P.6 Doctors set to discuss plan for strike action (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
- Top News (NZ) online UK doctors protesting against government pension plans (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
- Hispan TV online Scottish doctors to strike over cuts (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

30 December

- BBC Scotland News (top story) GPs to be consulted on pension changes (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

29 December

- Courier P.6 Medical staff 'risk compassion fatigue' (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Press & Journal P.12 NHS reforms 'undermine' doctors: BMA chairman says goodwill 'being pushed to breaking point' (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Scotsman P.8 NHS cuts could lead to 'compassion fatigue' warns doctors' leader (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Herald P.9 Doctors' leader warns of 'compassion fatigue' risk (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Workers Revolutionary Party (online) Industrial action not ruled out over pensions says Scottish BMA leader (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

21 December

Press & Journal P.7 Pension reform pushes forward as dispute rumbles on (BMA quote - Hamish Meldrum)

29 November

Press & Journal P.1, 9 North-east set for massive disruption as public-sector workers go out on strike. (BMA quote - Simon Barker Grampian LNC)

27 November

Sunday Herald P. 1, 17 & 18 Pensions - The Frontline (1) NHS (BMA Scotland quote - Alan Robertson)

26 November

Herald P.1 Doctors supports strike (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Herald P.18 Letter from Brian Keighley supporting Day of Action

25 November

Edinburgh Evening News P.14, 15 A lock down in Lothian (BMA mention)

18 November

Scotsman P.22 New changes to pensions branded a tax on NHS staff (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Daily Express P.14 Doctors join in revolt over pension deal (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

20 November

Irish Medical Times Pension hikes under fire (BMA Scotland Quote - Martin Woodrow)

13 October

GP Magazine GPs talk industrial action over pensions (BMA Scotland mention)

14 October

Pulse GPs in Scotland must reject pension changes, GP leaders urge (BMA Scotland Quote - Martin Woodrow)

5 August

GP online Scotland will consult on pension reforms if Scottish workers affected. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

19 August

Pulse Online GP leaders in devolved nations demand clarity on NHS pensions. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

GP Online Government must be clear if NHS pension changes will affect Scotland's doctors. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley & Alan Robertson)

4 August

4rfv (online) BMA calls for urgent consultation on pensions review in Scotland. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
National Health Executive (online) BMA seeks Scottish pension consultation. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
GP online Scottish Government will not hold a consultation on NHS pension reforms. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)
Pulse Scottish Government rules out pensions consultation. (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

3 August

Mature Times BMA calls for urgent consultation on pensions review in Scotland. The (BMA Scotland Quote - Brian Keighley)

Parliamentary Briefings/Activities:

Two debates have taken place in the Scottish Parliament on the subject of pensions. The BMA has provided briefings in advance of each of these and have been keeping the various political parties fully apprised of the current situation.

During the consultation period set out by the Scottish Government on the proposals to increase Contribution rates, the BMA produced and circulated a 'toolkit' for members to use to write to their MSPs. Although we do not have a number of the total number of members who used this toolkit, a number of MSPs have reported receiving correspondence from doctors on this issue. This toolkit also urged members to respond to the consultation direction and a majority of consultation responses were from individual doctors.

Various chairmen of the BMA's national committees met with members of the Health Committee at the end of 2011 and one of the issues raised was pension reforms.

In Scotland, the Labour Party supported the strike action (unlike Labour MPs in London) and has raised concerns in their own publicity that reflects the BMA's position.

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