Junior doctors’ strikes
Public opinion – wave 4
April 2016
Wave 4 – April strike
Majority still support the junior doctors, but support is not as high as when emergency care was being provided

As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England on Tuesday and Wednesday. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they do not provide emergency care? Emergency care from other staff would still be available.

April 2016 – emergency care not provided

- 26% Strongly support
- 18% Tend to support
- 13% Neither support nor oppose
- 17% Tend to oppose
- 57% Strongly oppose
- 3% Don’t know

January 2016 – emergency care provided

- 15% Strongly support
- 8% Tend to support
- 4% Neither support nor oppose
- 7% Tend to oppose
- 25% Strongly oppose
- 66% Don’t know

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (422)
Support for junior doctors’ full walkout holding up better than might have been expected from January findings

As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England on Tuesday and Wednesday. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they do not provide emergency care? Emergency care from other staff would still be available.

Note: in January this question was preceded by a question asking about support for strikes if junior doctors still provided emergency care. This means that the question was asked hypothetically within a context of emergency care being provided and the change should be interpreted with caution.

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ - January (869), (March (422)
No significant effect if consultants are mentioned as providing emergency care

As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England on Tuesday and Wednesday. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they do not provide emergency care? [EMERGENCY CARE OPTION HERE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Level</th>
<th>Other Staff</th>
<th>Consultants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to support</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to oppose</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (Other staff available: 422) (Consultants available: 439)
While the majority still feel the government is at fault for the dispute lasting this long, an increased proportion now blame both the doctors and government.

Junior doctors will be striking for the fifth time in their dispute with the government. From what you know and/or have heard about the industrial dispute between the government and junior doctors, which of the following statements, if either, comes closest in your view?

- The government is more at fault for the dispute lasting this long
- The junior doctors are more at fault for the dispute lasting this long
- Neither - I think they are equally at fault
- Don’t know

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (Feb: 847) (Mar: 860) (Apr: 861)
Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 861 adults in England, aged 18+. Interviews were conducted over the telephone between 22nd – 24th April 2016. Data is weighted to match the profile of the population.

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Appendix

Questions asked in January, February and March
Wave 3 – March strike
Support for a third round of strikes is strong, with around two thirds of people saying they support the action.

As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they still provided emergency care?

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (860)
Support has remained stable, but the proportion opposing strike action has returned to a similar level as seen in January.

As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they still provided emergency care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan-16</th>
<th>Feb-16</th>
<th>Mar-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly support</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to support</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither support nor oppose</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to oppose</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An ongoing dispute

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (Jan: 869) (Feb: 847) (Mar: 860)
While the majority still feel the government is at fault for the dispute lasting this long, an increased proportion now blame both the doctors and government.

Junior doctors will be striking for the third time in their dispute with the government. From what you know and/or have heard about the industrial dispute between the government and junior doctors, which of the following statements, if either, comes closest in your view?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Feb 2016</th>
<th>Mar 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The government is more at fault for the dispute lasting this long</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The junior doctors are more at fault for the dispute lasting this long</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither - I think they are equally at fault</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (Feb: 847) (Mar: 860)
Wave 2 – February strike
As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they still provided emergency care?

Support for the strikes stays strong, though more now ‘strongly support’ junior doctors than in January

Comparison between Jan and Feb

- **Strongly support**: 49% in Feb, 41% in Jan
- **Tend to support**: 17% in Feb, 25% in Jan
- **Neither support nor oppose**: 11% in Feb, 15% in Jan
- **Tend to oppose**: 8% in Feb, 7% in Jan
- **Strongly oppose**: 14% in Feb, 8% in Jan
- **Don’t know**: 1% in Feb, 4% in Jan

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (Jan: 869) (Feb: 847)
Junior doctors will be striking for the second time in their dispute with the government. From what you know and/or have heard about the industrial dispute between the government and junior doctors, which of the following statements, if either, comes closest in your view?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The government is more at fault for the dispute lasting this long</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The junior doctors are more at fault for the dispute lasting this long</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither - I think they are equally at fault</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (847)
Wave 1 - January strike
The majority support junior doctors striking when emergency care is provided...

As you may be aware, junior doctors are planning strike action in England. If they go on strike, would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they still provided emergency care?

- % Strongly support: 16%
- % Tend to support: 8%
- % Neither support nor oppose: 7%
- % Tend to oppose: 25%
- % Strongly oppose: 4%
- % Don't know: 41%

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (869)
Support for the strikes drops 22 percentage points when emergency care is not provided.

And would you support or oppose junior doctors striking if they did not provide emergency care? Emergency care from other staff would still be available.

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (869)
Some understanding of the issues behind the strikes...but most think it’s linked to long hours and pay generally

And why do you think junior doctors are planning to strike?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Combined responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Work (64%)**
- Long hours (46%)
- Working conditions (18%)
- The unsociable hours (16%)
- Safety of patients at risk (2%)
- Safety of healthcare staff at risk (1%)

**Pay (60%)**
- Pay (27%)
- Junior doctors are poorly paid (24%)
- Cuts or changes to pay of junior doctors generally (9%)
- Cuts or changes to overtime pay of junior doctors (6%)

**Politics (8%)**
- They dislike or disagree with the government (4%)
- Disagreement over seven day services in NHS (3%)
- Professional organisations/unions are driving strike action (1%)

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (869)