Junior doctors’ strikes

Public opinion – wave 3

March 2016
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>Response</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>49%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tend to support</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</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>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

- 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)
Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 860 adults in England, aged 18+. Interviews were conducted over the telephone between 4 and 6 March 2016. Data is weighted to match the profile of the population.

www.ipsos-mori.com
Appendix

Questions asked in January and February
Wave 2 – February strike
Support for the strikes stays strong, though more now ‘strongly support’ junior doctors than 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?

**February 2016**

- **Strongly support**: 41%
- **Tend to support**: 14%
- **Neither support nor oppose**: 11%
- **Tend to oppose**: 8%
- **Strongly oppose**: 4%
- **Don’t know**: 1%

**Comparison between Jan and Feb**

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

Base: Adults in England, aged 18+ (Jan: 869) (Feb: 847)
The government seen by majority as responsible for the dispute lasting this long

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?

- The government is more at fault for the dispute lasting this long (64%)
- The junior doctors are more at fault for the dispute lasting this long (13%)
- Neither - I think they are equally at fault (18%)
- Don’t know (4%)

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: 15%
- % Tend to oppose: 4%
- % Strongly oppose: 7%
- % Don't know: 25%

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.

**Emergency care not provided**
- 22% Strongly support
- 17% Tend to support
- 14% Neither support nor oppose
- 20% Tend to oppose
- 24% Strongly oppose
- 4% Don't know

**Emergency care provided**
- 41% Strongly support
- 8% Tend to support
- 15% Neither support nor oppose
- 25% Tend to oppose
- 7% Strongly oppose
- 8% Don't know

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?

Combined responses

**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%)

**Contracts (8%)**
- It's about their contract (8%)

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

Don't know 9%

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