

Green Party response to Junior Doctors' Strike



Green Party

11 April 2023

Responding to strike action by junior doctors, **co-leader of the Green Party Carla Denyer**, who has today joined junior doctors on the picket line, said:

“Junior doctors are absolutely right to call for their pay to be restored to pre-austerity levels. Most people clearly agree that it is unacceptable for junior doctors to work ever longer hours while being asked to accept a real terms pay cut. A new poll shows 54% of the public back junior doctors taking action, while only 26% oppose [1].

“Years of government underfunding has pushed the NHS to breaking point and resulted in poor pay, thousands of unfilled vacancies, declining working conditions, overworked staff, and stretched capacity. Strike action by junior doctors and other health service workers is the inevitable consequence.

“The Green Party is committed to a properly funded NHS. We would increase investment by at least £6bn each year and ensure junior doctors and other health workers are decently paid. And to tackle the fact that one in three hospital beds in parts of England are occupied by patients well enough to be discharged but unable to access social care [2], we would also provide free social care.

“Health and social care, free at the point of use, could be funded through a wealth tax on the richest 1%, a single unified income tax – raising an additional £24 billion – or adding a social care levy to a more progressive tax system. Failure to provide adequate funding for decent health and social care is a political choice.”

Notes

1. <https://news.sky.com/story/politics-latest-junior-doctors-beginning-96-hour-walkout-as-industrial-action-to-last-until-saturday-12593360?postid=5759113#liveblog-body>
2. [Up to one in three English hospital beds occupied by patients fit for discharge | NHS | The Guardian](#)

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DAERA welcomes publication of responses to UK pig sector consultation

DAERA has welcomed today's publication of responses to a DEFRA-led consultation on contracts within the UK pig sector.

Closure of Kells and Connor Medical Practice, Ballymena

The GP contractor at Kells and Connor Medical Practice, Ballymena gave notice to the Department of Health that they will be resigning their contract to provide GP services from 30 April 2023.

March stocking of Departmental waters

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has stocked the following waters with takeable fish in March 2023:

Civil Service 2022 Pay Award to be implemented for non-industrial staff

The Department of Finance (DoF) has announced implementation of the 2022 Pay Award for Northern Ireland Civil Service non-industrial staff.