



And the winner is...

As the awards season nears its end, it is time to reflect on the impact of the new Junior Doctors Contract so far, on what has changed and what is on the horizon. Although we have no prizes to give, there have been some notable achievements.

Following the requests for work schedule reviews the following changes have been implemented in the specialties concerned:

- Prompt **start and finish times** for ward rounds
- **Prompt handover** of patients
- Transfer of staff between teams to **match staffing to workload**
- **Reviewing attendance at rounds** and meetings so that those not required may continue with other tasks
- **Closer working with nursing and ward staff** to support trainees
- **Senior doctors** prioritising tasks arising from ward rounds
- Seeking **short term locum cover** to cope with additional work
- **Staggering of rotas** to ensure staff are available to complete early and late ward tasks
- **Clarity for trainees** around routine ward tasks and those required to secure patient safety.



Credit for these changes must go to the Care Group Leads, Clinical Directors & Divisional Chairs who have stepped up to review the working practices of their teams and who, along with their General & Service Managers & Divisional Directors, have made this happen.

Early evidence shows that the number of occasions trainees are working over their hours or missing their breaks has reduced.

Raising concerns-JDF-GMC

The Junior Doctor Forum has gone from strength to strength having met consistently over the past 5 months. One key aim of the forum is to give trainees a **'safe space'** in which to raise concerns. The JDF sees this as part of its **GMC responsibility** to encourage and support a culture in which staff can raise concerns openly and safely.



The JDF has already heard testimony regarding undue pressure being applied and potential intimidation /bullying following the submission of exception reports by trainees. This is clearly unacceptable and has been addressed swiftly by Professor Rhodes, the Trust's Medical Director.

This stance has been further supported in a letter from the Executive Medical Director of NHS Improvement which states:

*"I would appreciate your support with ensuring that the reporting process and the role of the Guardian are properly understood and used as set out in advice from NHS Employers, **without any detriment to the trainee doctors**"*

The full letter can be viewed [here](#). The Junior Doctor Forum will continue to monitor feedback and testimony from trainees and escalate any concerns.

Your Guardian

This regular monthly update goes out to all GP trainers across South London and Consultants employed by St George's. **A copy will also be sent to GP trainees across South London and Specialty trainees employed by St George's.**

The **Guardian's first quarterly report** can be viewed on page 130-132 of the Trust Board Papers [here](#). If you or your department or place of work would like a briefing on the progress to date with the contract, please let me know at sunil.dasan@nhs.net

So it's goodnight from him

And so to end this theatrical inspired Guardian update, I'll leave you with Serena Haywood's excellent blog. As well as reading her latest blog which gives a nod to Anton Chekhov, **Consultants and Trainees must all read the Guest Blog**. The title says it all: [Surviving the night; The F1's tale](#)