



British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin

Date 22/03/2025

Dear Charlie,

Re: PLAB doctors and employment issues

We have been contacted by many of our members to express their concern about the growing numbers of PLAB doctors who are facing employment issues in the NHS and consequently, financial hardship.

You will be aware that the NHS has had a record number of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) arriving in the UK in the last three to four years. Indeed, the numbers have grown, such that the number of IMGs exceeded the number of UK graduates entering the medical register. These young doctors, who have left their homes and jobs in their native countries in pursuit of qualifications and careers in the NHS, are facing significant challenges which they seem not to have been aware of, at the time they either sit their PLAB exams or come over to the UK. As well as many of them having to call on their families to subsidise their living here, they are also facing a backlash from UK graduates because of the limited number of training places available, especially in some specialities. The stress and anxiety of living away from home is adding to their burden as they have limited support in this country.

Many of these doctors are also reporting to us that they are not being able to get training in their chosen specialities or that they take non-training jobs, which as you will be aware is storing more problems for the future, with the SAS/LED grades already being the largest growing group on the medical register.

We are therefore writing to ask what you as the regulator are doing about this matter, and how you intend to support these doctors, and if necessary slow down the whole process from exams to registration, until the employment and training opportunities for these doctors improve. We would also like to know how the GMC has been supporting those who are in distress or need career advice. Your early reply would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

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