



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS
of Great Britain & Ireland

Professor Sir John Tooke
MMC Inquiry
4th Floor, Universities UK
20 Tavistock Square
London
WC2H 9HD

Monday 12th November 2007

Dear Sir John,

I write as the Chairman of the Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT) Committee of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland (AAGBI), the elected body that represents more than 95% of anaesthetic trainees, some 3500 individuals, across the UK. I am grateful to you for the invitation to respond to your panel's interim report of its inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers.

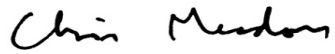
The GAT Committee would like to express its full support for the recommendations laid out in 'Aspiring to Excellence'. We particularly welcome the commitment to flexibility and excellence through competition, both of which we consider to be of the highest priority in medical professional training.

In addition, we would specifically like to register our support for integrating academic and research roles with the clinical training programme, clinical engagement of management responsibilities, and a resolution of the non-consultant career grade position. These are essential steps along the path to achieving a reliable and robust training programme for all graduates both now and in the future.

Whilst we realise that different specialties will undoubtedly wish to 'fine-tune' the recommendations to suit their own specific objectives, we believe this report represents a singular opportunity for the medical profession to unite, place this year's calamitous events

behind it, and look ahead with a commitment to producing the best doctors for NHS patients. We offer our wholehearted support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Meadows". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr Chris Meadows
Chairman, GAT

Cc:

Dr Judith Hulf, President, Royal College of Anaesthetists

Mr Ram Moorthy, Chair, Junior Doctors' Committee of the BMA