



For anaesthetists
For our future

Dear Presidents

Our judicial review is being heard in the High Court on the 13-14th May. With only 9 weeks to go, we would like you to consider publicly supporting and endorsing it.

A High Court judge has reviewed the papers and granted both expedition and permission. The permission stage was a significant hurdle - 95% of JRs fail at this stage. The judge found that all the grounds of challenge are reasonably arguable, and he observed that "*The claim raises serious issues of importance to the relevant professions and to patients which should be determined on a reasonably expedited basis.*" In contrast, the GMC had claimed our case was hopeless and could not even be argued.

You will of course have seen the Oxford study which shows not only the very worrying data on safety but also the lack of an economic case for PAs. In the current NHS financial crisis Trusts are even more keen to save money than they were a decade ago when Frances reported. But sadly, PAs only make economic sense when they are used unsafely. Continuing to allow employer-set scope alone is a grave mistake, and is not something that you, as Royal Colleges, can condone.

We were delighted to see the new RCP statement yesterday, supporting both nationally-set scope, an (explicit) ceiling on practice, and for PA supervision solely to be done only by senior doctors. We were also pleased to see the recent RCEM statement on tiers and supervision.

But we remain disappointed that you, who are each very aware of the benefit that could come from our JR, have nevertheless not yet openly endorsed it in any way, either individually or collectively; let alone contributed to our legal costs as your members have done.

We would be grateful if this could be considered for discussion at the next Academy council.

Once again we invite you to respond to us individually. We are grateful to those of you that replied to our previous email for your frank and encouraging comments.

With kind regards

Dr Richard Marks
Dr Luke Mordecai
Directors of Anaesthetists United Ltd.

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