

Mr. Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2nd March 2022

Dear Mr Javid,

Re: Ukrainian crisis and medical education/training

As you are aware, the Russian invasion into Ukraine has resulted in a war-related humanitarian crisis never before seen, since the end of the second world war. While the UK mobilises all the necessary support for those forced to flee their homes, one matter that is getting less attention is the plight of medical students from overseas who were studying at the private medical schools in Ukraine. Many amongst them are those from the Indian subcontinent. There are reports of over 20,000 Indian medical students being caught in the crisis, and there are others from Pakistan as well as other neighbouring countries, which is likely to impact the global medical workforce crises caused by Covid19 to worsen even further.

We are asking you therefore to work with NHS England, particularly with Health Education England, as well as the Universities and medical schools to offer those that would be suitable, places at our medical schools or for those who have graduated, foundation year placements, so that they can continue their education and training. These students should then have the choice of extending their stay here or returning to their home countries. We think that the UK has an important role in ensuring that our medical workforce crisis does not deepen unnecessarily through this man-made war.

Another matter that deserves urgent attention is the issue of medical emergencies that have arisen in those who are affected during the migration to neighbouring countries and in war-torn Ukraine. We would urge the British government to get all emergency supplies of medical equipment and medication to those areas where there is acute need, and as we have seen on news and social media, there are many who will die or suffer needlessly because of the lack of the medical care.

President: Dr Ramesh Mehta, OBE
Secretary: Prof Parag Singhal

Chairman: Dr JS Bamrah CBE
Treasurer: Dr Arvind Shah

Corporate Office: The Chapel, Trinity Gardens, 9-11 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2BP UK

T: +441234212879

Email: admin@bapio.co.uk



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We would be grateful if you would take our concerns further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Mehta', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Ramesh Mehta, OBE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JS Bamrah', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. JS Bamrah, CBE

cc: Ms Amanda Pritchard, CEO, NHS England, Skipton House, London SE1 6LH

cc: H.E. Gaitri Issar Kumar, High Commissioner of India, London

cc: Dr Navina Evans CBE, Chief Executive, Health Education England

cc: Prof Wendy Reid, Medical Education England, Postgraduate Dean, London Deanery