LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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**FEARS FOR FUTURE OF BROKEN NHS**

Sir, That doctors are considering striking fills me with sadness (“Doctors demand 30% rise and warn of picketing at hospitals”, Jun 28; letters, Jun 29 & Jul 1). Although pay is the language of the dispute I think the real issue is how doctors are treated in a system that seems to show lip service to their wellbeing but little else. An intention to strike shows a detachment from one’s employer, in this case the NHS, which has made many doctors feel depersonalised and undervalued. We are witnessing the effects of this by the large number of doctors who are taking breaks from, or completely leaving, medicine. To many of us medicine is (and certainly should be) the most amazing, fulfilling and enjoyable career imaginable.

Whatever the outcome of the pay deal, unless these underlying issues are addressed I fear for the future of my medical colleagues and for the NHS itself. **Anthony Cohn**
Consultant paediatrician, London NW4