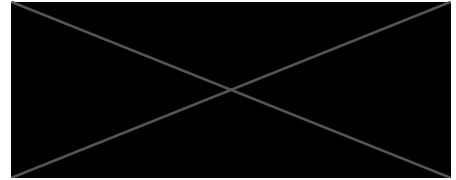


Dr Shan Hussain



4th December 2025

To: The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KC MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Subject: Complaint under HMG Ministerial Code - remarks made by the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP about the British Medical Association.

I am writing to make a formal complaint under the Ministerial Code about comments made by the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, which I consider may constitute a breach of the Code.

The British Medical Association (BMA) is the trade union and professional body for doctors in the UK. It consists of elected representative doctors that provide a voice for their record-high membership in response to their concerns, needs and expectations.

Over the last few months, Mr Streeting has made many personal attacks through various outlets against the BMA, merely for acting on behalf of their member doctors. These attacks include:

- comparing the BMA to a “cartel”, labelling them “morally reprehensible” and “no longer a professional voice for doctors” (NHS Providers conference, 12th November 2025).
- describing the BMA as “irresponsible” and “reckless” (Sky News interview, 14th November 2025).
- claiming the BMA are “out of touch” while falsely asserting that most resident doctors do not wish to partake in industrial action (The Times, 14th November 2025). This latter claim was soon debunked by Peter Kellner, former president of YouGov (The Guardian, 26th November 2025).
- accusing the BMA of “juvenile delinquency” and behaving like “moaning minnies” (Sky News, 3rd December 2025).

As a result of these remarks, the reputation of the BMA, a respected professional body, has been publicly undermined. The language used was strongly derogatory, dismissive of the organisation’s professional standing, and appears intended to degrade public confidence in the BMA’s role.

I would like to highlight and agree with Mr Streeting’s recent claim that “serious relationships with government demand a certain level of mutual respect and professionalism” in a letter to GPs on 26th November 2025. However this statement is clearly inconsistent with his own professional behaviours after referring to GPs as “laggards”, “sabre rattlers” and “coasting” earlier this year.

As you are aware, the Ministerial Code requires that Ministers are expected to maintain high standards of behaviour and to behave in a way that upholds the highest standards of propriety. The Code goes on to say that Ministers should be held to the highest possible standards of proper conduct, and ensure that they are living up to those standards in their words and actions. One would not expect them to not use their position to unjustly attack or denigrate individuals or organisations.

Whilst I appreciate that professional disputes are an emotive subject and Ministers are entitled to express opinions, the persistent use of derisive, demeaning, and reputationally damaging language - especially in public and directed at a professional organisation - goes beyond mere policy disagreement or robust political debate. By publicly branding the BMA with terms such as “cartel”, “reckless”, “out of touch”, and “moaning minnies”, Mr Streeting has not only attacked the organisation’s policies but also its legitimacy, professional standing, and integrity.

I consider that this may amount to a breach of the spirit (and possibly letter) of the Ministerial Code regarding respect, dignity, and the general obligations of Ministers to uphold the reputation of Parliament.

I feel your intervention is necessary to avoid emboldening other Ministers to follow this unacceptable standard of behaviour. Hence I respectfully request that you consider whether the Mr Streeting’s remarks constitute a breach of the Ministerial Code. If so, I ask that you recommend appropriate action under the rules governing members’ conduct - which may include requiring the MP to publicly retract or apologise, or any other remedy deemed proportionate by you or the relevant committee.

I accept that the Code does not cover mere expressions of opinion or policy arguments. However:

- The remarks go beyond policy criticism; they are personal, insulting, and dismissive of the integrity and professional standing of the BMA (and by implication, of BMA representative doctors and their membership).
- The comments were made publicly, and risk undermining public confidence not only in the BMA but in the reputation of Parliamentarians and the House by facilitating a public smear of a professional institution.
- As such, I believe they may reasonably be considered to bring the House into disrepute, or to offend the standards of dignity and respect required of Ministers.

To the best of my knowledge, the facts as set out above are true. I believe this complaint is made in good faith and in the public interest.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Shan Hussain MBBS MRCP
GP Partner, Appraiser and Clinical Supervisor
Chair, Nottinghamshire Local Medical Committee
BMA Council member
BMA GP Committee Representative for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire