

## SOURCE 6

**Letter from the British Medical Association concerning National Insurance, February 1912**

**(PRO: MH 62/123)**

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### **HOW TO USE THIS SOURCE TO HELP YOU ANSWER THE BIG QUESTION :**

You need to study the source carefully before you decide whether it supports or contradicts any of the reasons in the Big Question.

### **ASK YOURSELF:**

- What were the main demands of the doctors?
- What threat accompanied the doctors' demands?
- Do the doctors' demands seem reasonable?
- How might Lloyd George have used this letter in a speech?

# SOURCE 6

OFFICES OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,  
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "Medisecm, London."  
TELEPHONE No. 2834. (Gerrard Exchange.)

429, STRAND,

LONDON, W.C.



REGISTRY

8316

29th February, 1912.

1912

Sir,

I am instructed to inform you that at the Special Representative Meeting of the British Medical Association, held at the Guildhall, February 20th - 22nd, the following resolution was unanimously passed:-

That this Representative Meeting direct the Council to inform, in plain and unmistakable language, the Commissioners appointed under the Insurance Act, 1911, that unless the minimum demands of the Association be embodied in the Regulations

it is the intention of the British Medical Association to call upon all its members and upon all other medical practitioners to decline to form panels or undertake any other medical duties which may be assigned to them under the Act,

I am to point out to you that the minimum demands of the Association mentioned in the above resolution comprise:-

1. An income limit of £2 a week for those entitled to medical benefit.

2. Free choice of doctor by patient subject to consent of doctor to act.

3. all questions of professional discipline should be decided exclusively by a body or bodies of medical practitioners,

4. The method of remuneration of medical practitioners adopted by each Insurance Committee to be according to the preference of the majority of the medical profession of the district of that Committee.

5. Medical remuneration to be what the profession considers adequate, having due regard to the duties to be performed and other conditions of service.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

*Alfred Cox*

Acting Medical Secretary.