

# Pay rises above inflation would be a terrible mistake, says Hunt

**The chancellor has said it would be a “terrible mistake” to give pay rises above the rate of inflation, even though strikes are hitting the economy.**

Jeremy Hunt said the impact of the junior doctors’ strike on NHS patients was “regrettable”.

But wage increases that fuelled inflation would have a “more damaging” impact on the UK economy, he said.

Junior doctors are calling for a 35% pay rise, to make up for 15 years of below-inflation wage rises.

There has been no breakthrough in the latest public sector strike. The government has said that junior doctors’ pay demands are “unreasonable” and that talks can only happen if the BMA union moves “significantly” away from their current position.

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**Source:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65267370>

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