



The  
British  
Psychological  
Society

Press release: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**The Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) and the British Psychological Society (BPS) welcome the Prime Minister's announcement this week to support mental wellbeing in the workplace.**

We look forward to working with Lord Stevenson, and Paul Farmer, CEO of MIND, to create a new partnership with industry, and make prevention and breaking stigma top priorities for employers. We agree with the Prime Minister that mental wellbeing doesn't just improve the health of employees, it improves their motivation, reduces their absence and drives better productivity too.

The SOM and the BPS believe effective interventions for both physical and psychological health are important. Its members support and advise the working population, ensuring demands in the workplace are reasonable. Occupational health and medicine professionals work with employers and employees to help people with mental health issues stay in work and avoid worklessness (in itself a cause of worsening of physical and mental health). As part of good mental health at work, workers must have some control over their work and that they be rewarded appropriately for their efforts.

**Further information:**

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**Notes to Editors**

1. The Society of Occupational Medicine is the UK organisation for all doctors and other healthcare professionals working in or with an interest in occupational health. It is concerned with the protection of the health of people in the workplace, the prevention of occupational injuries and disease and related environmental issues.
2. The statement from the Prime Minister is <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-unveils-plans-to-transform-mental-health-support>
3. Comment from MIND is at <http://www.mind.org.uk/news-campaigns/news/prime-minister-unveils-plans-to-transform-mental-health-support/#.WHZMo6wnwdU>

For further information contact the British Psychological Society Press Centre, Tel: 0116 252 9500, email: [presscentre@bps.org.uk](mailto:presscentre@bps.org.uk)

**Note to the Editors**

1. Comment from the BPS President is at <https://beta.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-response-theresa-mays-speech-mental-health>
2. The British Psychological Society is the representative body for psychology and psychologists in the UK. We are responsible for the development, promotion and application of psychology for the public good. For more information please visit [www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)

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