Conservative leader David Cameron will tell frontline medical staff that he would like to make the NHS more independent and give doctors more power, in a podcast to be delivered to 129,000 doctors.

Talking exclusively to Radio Doctors.net.uk about the current problems facing the medical profession, Mr. Cameron will say: “Perhaps the biggest change I’d like to make is to try and have a greater independence in the NHS and more freedom from political interference. If you look at what has happened with economic policy, the Government gave the Bank of England independence, set its objectives and said, “Right, you now get on with the job.” I think we should be looking at this in health.”

During the 20-minute podcast, Mr. Cameron will also invite junior doctors to use the Conservative Party as the official opposition to challenge the Government over changes to specialist training following the introduction of Modernising Medical Careers last August; “I would encourage all those doctors who are worried about the current circumstances who want to see a change, to engage with Andrew Lansley and our health team who are there to listen to their views, to understand the problems and challenge the Government.”

But he stresses: “I am not looking at Labour policies to see which ones to dismantle, but what we can improve…people need a period of calm from the endless upheaval. I would want to strip out more bureaucracy and do that faster.”

The questions put to Mr. Cameron were taken directly from members’ contributions to the discussion forum on Doctors.net.uk—Europe’s largest medical network for education and communication. Mr. Cameron will also discuss in detail the role of the private sector in healthcare delivery, the influence of choice in improving the quality of health services, Payment by Results, Foundation Trust status and centralised targets.

Commenting on the podcast, Chief Executive and Founder of Doctors.net.uk, Dr. Neil Bacon, said: “When David Cameron wanted to know the true concerns and issues facing frontline NHS clinicians he chose Doctors.net.uk to accurately assess the opinions of doctors. Using the Doctors.net.uk podcast service to deliver his responses he utilised a unique service providing him with an unrivalled opportunity to deliver a personalised, precise message, and truly engage with clinicians throughout the UK.”

Since Doctors.net.uk introduced their podcast service in February, speakers have included Lord Norman Warner, Minister of State for NHS Reform, Professor Sir Graeme Catto, President of the GMC and Andrew Dillon, Chief Executive of NICE.
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Notes to Editor
David Cameron’s podcast is available via guest access to www.Doctors.net.uk. Please contact shaibal.roy@mess.doctors.org.uk for details.

Photo available on request.

David Cameron was interviewed by specialist health journalist, Sharon Alcock

Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) is an initiative launched by the Government in August 2005 to improve patient care by delivering modernised and focussed career structure for doctors through a major reform of postgraduate medical education.

About Doctors.net.uk
Doctors.net.uk Limited was founded in 1998 by Dr Neil Bacon, an Oxford specialist, to build an electronic network for doctors that would help improve healthcare.

Doctors.net.uk provides a secure spam and virus-protected e-mail service, accredited interactive education and a wide range of online knowledge services. It has over 129,000 UK doctors as members, including 38,000 GPs and 25,000 Hospital Consultants, and a further 19,000 medical students. Each day over 35,000 doctors use the service.

Doctors.net.uk provides highly-targeted communication campaigns for pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, the Department of Health, the General Medical Council and medical colleges, providing them with effective access to doctors for marketing, education, training and market research.

Doctors.net.uk is based near Oxford.

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