

BLOOD MONEY

Donors may desert if service is sold off

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HEALTH workers have blasted the government for offering to sell the blood transfusion service to private firms.

Staff fear that some of the three million donors a year will be put off and are demanding changes to the Health and Social Care Bill, which will let companies grab lucrative NHS contracts.

The National Blood Service, backed by stars such as Gary Lineker,

Gordon Ramsay and Sir Richard Branson who made TV ads praising its work, has already held talks with two private companies.

Owen Granfield, of the union Unite, said: "People will be shocked to learn the Department of Health is considering letting the private sector profit from blood. It is blood money."

Staff have written to NBS chief executive, Linda Hamlyn, to voice their outrage.

Karen Jennings of Unison, added:

"If there is any sense that giving will result in other people's profit then the system could break down."



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