

Model letter to your MP



Unite

FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFIT

Your address

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

xxxxxx MP
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Date xxxxx

Dear xxxxxxx

FOR PEOPLE, NOT FOR PROFIT

I work for xxxxxxxxxxxxxx a Not for Profit organisation and am writing to you to ask for your support with the issues relating to funding in Not for Profit organisations.

I am also a member of Unite which is campaigning for better funding for the Not for Profit Sector. The Third Sector is frequently held up by politicians from all parties as being the panacea to the delivery of services. However, the way that commissioning and procurement work, removes real choice from service users and gives it to the commissioners, and transfers services from the security of the public sector to the insecurity of a Not for Profit sector that is underfunded and unreasonably forced to compete for funding contracts. This enables cuts to be made to the price of services which is really detrimental to the health of the services being delivered, not to mention the workforce. Very often it is the most vulnerable service users who suffer the most from this situation.

Unite recently launched its survey findings: *Unsustainable – the impact of funding on the Not for Profit Workforce* which highlights the impact that funding is having on services and the workforce. These are:

- short term contracts create instability for jobs and service users
- cuts in funding creates a 'more for less' environment resulting in staff working excessive, unpaid overtime
- sector culture has moved dramatically away from a supportive one to one, to a culture where the majority of staff are experiencing stress at work and workplace bullying is on the increase
- training and development of the workforce has been dramatically reduced
- health and safety has been compromised
- private sector organisations are winning contracts to deliver services
- standards in service delivery falling under the pressures on services

I would ask you to put pressure on the government and your local authority to ensure that funding is longer term; that the workforce is not neglected, but is recognised for their professionalism, skills and understanding of what is required; that provision is made to remedy the already poor wages in the sector; and that a code is put in place to ensure that workforce issues are fully considered in the commissioning process.

I would like to meet you from 3pm onwards on Tuesday, 9 March 2010 at the House of Commons when I will be attending the lobby Unite is organising on this issue. Unite has allocated Committee Room 10 for MPs to meet with their constituents. Can you please let me know if you are able to meet me on this day. If not, could I arrange to see you at one of your surgeries? I would also like you to sign the attached EDM.

If you are not able to attend the House of Commons on 9 March replace the last paragraph with: Unite is holding a lobby on Tuesday, 9 March 2010 at the House of Commons, but unfortunately I am unable to attend. I would, however like to see you at one of your surgeries. I would also ask you to sign the attached EDM.

Yours sincerely

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Where there are 'X's, replace with relevant information on the attached letter. This letter is also available on www.uniteunion.org/fundinglobby

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