

HEALTH SECTOR



Friend –

As I write this message, the NHS is facing the most serious threat to its existence since it was founded in 1948.

The White Paper released this summer by Health Secretary Andrew Lansley is a recipe for unprecedented cuts and privatisation. Hastily written in just six weeks, this document proposes reforms that are untested, hurried, and very expensive to implement - that will surely result in deteriorating patient care.

We can't let them do it. We've got to stand, united, to save our NHS.

Join us today by getting on our Unite 4 our NHS map, showing NHS supporters around the country who want to defend our NHS. We'll enlarge it and deliver it to Westminster as a huge visual postcard showing our outcry against their disastrous plans.



<http://nhs.unitetheunion.org/addyourvoice>

The ConDems told us that the NHS was safe in their hands, yet we already have £20 billion in "efficiency savings" - which is merely shorthand for cuts. And we know there will be even deeper cuts on the way.

The ConDem government also plans to disband the 10 Strategic Health Authorities and 152 Primary Care Trusts. Without them, there will be no way of planning and coordinating the vital services that we all rely on.

Instead, groups of GPs will be handed £70-£80 billion to contract healthcare services for their patients from "any willing provider" - in other words, from private healthcare companies whose first loyalty is to their shareholders, not the principles of the NHS or patient care. This, plus the abolition of the cap on Foundation Trusts' private income, opens the door to a multi-tiered service where people will pay to be prioritised to receive quicker or better treatment. This should be the standard for all.

We've seen what happens when government hands citizens' healthcare over to private companies: Patients lose. Health suffers. Costs go up - not down.

We cannot be the generation that allows the NHS to be dismantled. Join us in telling the ConDem Government we won't allow it to happen:

<http://nhs.unitetheunion.org/addyourvoice>

As NHS founder Aneurin Bevan once said, the NHS "will last as long as there are folk left with the faith to fight for it".

Thank you so much for fighting beside us.

Karen Reay
Unite 4 Our NHS

Derek Simpson and Tony Woodley
Joint General Secretaries