

NO JOB CUTS IN THE BLOOD SERVICE!

The NHS national blood service is proposing to cut 200 jobs in their laboratories in Birmingham, Southampton and Plymouth and also make cuts in its collection teams. This follows compulsory job losses at the blood centre in Oxford.




amicus
the union


UNISON
the public service union

There are plans to create a new centre at Filton, near Bristol but unions fear that highly skilled technical and scientific staff will be lost to the NHS leaving Birmingham, Plymouth and Southampton without facilities for the testing and processing of blood donations including testing for HIV, hepatitis B and C, syphilis and also for blood group and screening for rare antibodies.



WHY TRADE UNIONS OPPOSE THE CUTS

- A small number of senior staff are forcing through plans without any consultation with either local hospitals or local communities.
- The job losses are primarily caused by government spending limits and the Department of Health's insistence on pursuing market mechanisms, even in the supply of blood to hospitals.
- Staff cannot see how the cuts either improve patient care or lead to greater efficiency. The blood service's plans seem to be based on reports made ten years ago by management consultants, rather than on current research into best practice.
- The blood service and NHS should not be wasting the skills of trained staff by making them redundant. £Millions have been set aside for redundancy.
- Management have failed to even consider efficiency proposals made by staff.
- The job losses are from front-line staff and line managers, while the number of senior and strategic managers continues to increase.

**WE BELIEVE THAT THESE CLOSURES ARE THE BEGINNING OF
THE PRIVATISATION OF THE NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE AND
THAT FURTHER MAJOR JOB CUTS IN OTHER CITIES WILL
FOLLOW, TOGETHER WITH THE PRIVATISATION
OF ITS BIO PRODUCTS LABORATORY AT ELSTREE.**

How you can help:

Please help us to save jobs in the blood service and return to a blood service centred on the service to patients.



- Write to your MP House of Commons, Westminster, SW1A 0AA or email your MP www.locata.co.uk/commons/
- Write to NBS Chief Executive - Martin Gorham, Chief Executive, National Blood Service, Oak House, Read's Crescent, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 4PH or email: martin.gorham@nbs.nhs.uk
- If you wish to get involved in the campaign contact your union rep or regional office.

