

Take to the streets to stop the cuts...

DAY X DEMO: DEFEND THE NHS: 9th MARCH

Day X, Wednesday 9 March, will be the day that we bring everyone together to defend our NHS. Spread the word and build the demo as widely as possible. Come in uniform, bring workmates, family and friends.

Huge and devastating cuts are being announced at a rapid pace now. The NHS faces over 120,000 job cuts nationally, and a historic attack in the form of the Health Bill. It will allow private companies will swoop in and run our health service on the basis of profit. Meanwhile, the bankers continue to award themselves obscene bonuses. And the rich are left to evade their tax.

But there is an alternative. Resistance is starting to grow. In the last few weeks, we have seen the first strike in the NHS against the cuts which has set an example of how to fight.

Over 300 marched at the Homerton Hospital, bringing the community and health workers together, and in less than a week's notice, around 300 health workers and NHS users protested outside the Royal London, and blocked Whitechapel road at the height of rush hour traffic.

Day X will send the message loud and clear to the bankers and to the Con-Dem government:

- Hands off our NHS, no job cuts, no cuts to services
- Make the bankers pay for the crisis they caused

**Assemble 5pm,
London Hospital,
(main entrance,
opp. Whitechapel tube)**

**March from
Royal London Hospital
through The City –
heartland of the banks –
to Barts Hospital**



For further information or to get leaflets for your local hospital/community, call 07795 412 932

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KILL Lansley's NHS Bill!

The coalition government is pushing legislation through Parliament that would dismantle our National Health Service. The 'Health and Social Care Bill', published last month, has been almost universally criticised – but poorly reported in the media, so there are important proposals you will probably know nothing about. For instance:

DID YOU KNOW that while David Cameron and Andrew Lansley claim that the Bill is "evolution" rather than "revolution", the Bill is bigger and more complex than Aneurin Bevan's Act that set up the NHS in 1948? NHS chief executive Sir David Nicholson says it's big enough to be "visible from space"!

DID YOU KNOW the Bill could cost a massive £3 billion or more, and effectively *privatise* almost 1 million NHS staff in England by 2014?

DID YOU KNOW that £100 billion of taxpayers' money would be handed over to GP consortiums and an NHS Commissioning Board that will meet behind closed doors, with press and public excluded, publish no papers, and not even be required to consult before imposing cuts closures and major changes?

DID YOU KNOW *clinical services* are for the first time to be opened up to bids from "Any Willing Provider" – with competition based on the *lowest price* – opening the door to cowboy private companies, and smashing down quality of care, in the same way as Thatcher's privatisation of hospital cleaning wrecked hospital hygiene standards and kick-started MRSA in the 1980s?



A couple of willing providers: Lovely Jubbly!



Mr Lansley thinks his plan will work

DID YOU KNOW that – despite all the hype – GPs will *NOT* really be in charge, but will be under the thumb of a remote, bureaucratic NHS Commissioning Board? GPs will not even have any say over which providers will be included on the new national register. All the real work of commissioning services will be done by back-room management teams, many of them from private companies.

DID YOU KNOW that Foundation Trusts will be free to make as much money as they like from private medicine, treating more wealthy patients from home and abroad, while NHS budgets are squeezed?

DID YOU KNOW that £20 billion of cuts will mean the GP consortia, being set up without any consultation with their own patients or public, will be forced to act as *rationing boards*, deciding what services to close and exclude from the NHS?

DID YOU KNOW that patients will have even less choice than they do now: hospital referrals will require the rubber stamp of "referral management" teams, often run by private companies, seeking to cut spending?

DID YOU KNOW that the expansion of private providers will inevitably bankrupt and close many local NHS services and hospitals – leaving patients to travel further for treatment? Nobody is choosing that.

The Bill is long and complicated: but the issues are clear: it is smashing up our NHS and opening the doors to private profiteers. It is completing Thatcher's privatisation drive of the 1980s.

That's why we have to Kill Lansley's Bill before it kills the NHS. Join the campaign.

Write to your local **MP and councillors**, write to local and national newspapers, **JOIN Keep Our NHS Public**, and help build what will be a massive **TUC London protest** on **March 26**.

For more details on the Bill and the campaign: www.keepournhspublic.com

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