

'Wholly Owned Companies' – Don't let Trusts get away with kicking loyal staff out of the NHS!

Image © John Purkis.



Stop the targeting of Estates, Facilities, Procurement and Medical Engineering

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Since 2010 this Government has:

- Cut annual rises in the NHS budget to just 1% despite increased costs and rising need
- Insisted on £22bn 'savings', resulting in the NHS being short of 100,000 staff including 40,000 nurses and 20,000 mental health workers; 50% of district nursing posts and 1,300 GPs have gone
- Forced over 50% of NHS Trusts into deficit (up from 8% in 2009) and almost bankrupted some like Northampton Acute Trust.
- Encouraged privatisation: private firms now provide £9bn of NHS services while outsourcing has doubled admin costs
- Started to ration health care, close A&Es, axe midwifery units, reduce the number of GP surgeries, centralise services and close local hospitals.

NOW they are putting huge pressure on hospitals to transfer their staff and assets (like land), to separate commercially run 'Wholly Owned Companies' (WOC) also known as Subsidiary Companies (SubCo). Those targeted include staff in Estates, Facilities, Procurement and Medical Engineering

The plans for WOC/SubCo

- Are unfair to staff who take pride in working for the NHS and find themselves being shunted out against their wishes
- Flagrantly contravene the NHS ethos and reliance on team work
- Offer 'guarantees' to protect staff terms and conditions long term which in practice can be overturned with ease

- Create a two tier workforce, with new staff being taken on under worse terms and conditions and not protected by national NHS agreements
- Open hospitals to criticism of tax dodging (highlighted by the Finance Director at the Department of Health) by avoidance of VAT
- Duplicate administration and add to operating costs (with hospitals also having to offer risky performance guarantees if the WOC bids for contracts)
- Smooth the way for selling off NHS land and buildings
- Accelerate the breaking up of the NHS and the loss of a publicly owned, managed and delivered service on which we all rely

Any hope a WOC will 'grow the business' and help support frontline services (as hospitals argue) is likely to prove unfounded. The national move to WOC will lead to a casualised workforce lacking a strong public service ethos (not good for patients). There is a clear danger that in future there is nothing to prevent a WOC being bought out by the private sector.

Please take a stand to stop further fragmentation of our NHS and in support of threatened staff

Write to your local NHS Trust Board

asking them to resist pressure to outsource staff and facilities into a WOC/SubCo and to take on board the views of staff and their trade unions.

Contact your councillors and MPs

asking them to add their voices in support of halting these plans.

Together we can make a difference and protect the NHS for ourselves and our families!