

**Branch Meeting**  
**Wednesday**  
**24th**  
**September**  
**6.30 p.m.**

STUC  
333 Woodlands Road  
Glasgow  
G3 6NG



Gail Cartmail,  
the union's head of health,  
addressing a meeting of  
NHS members

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- **Cartmail visits Scottish NHS Committee**
- **Pregnant Women's Rights Abused**
- **Agenda for Change Schools**
- **Stress Survey**

## Has Your Trust Assessed Stress Yet?

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has served an improvement notice on West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust to undertake a risk assessment to control workplace stress. Failure to comply with the notice would lead to substantial fines with the possibility of prison terms for senior executives.

Thus the NHS has the somewhat dubious privilege of being the first British employer to have served on them an improvement notice to control workplace stress. The HSE's

statement makes it clear to all employers that it regards control of workplace stress as a priority and risk assessments a primary tool to this end.

Using a risk management model requires the collaborative efforts of key stakeholders, with employees central to the process. Workplace stress is about to become a significant priority and safety reps should ensure that proper assessments are carried out.

*Mike Chapman*

## Election of Amicus National Executive Council 2004

On the 1st January 2004, the two parts of amicus (MSF and the AEEU) will become fully integrated into one union. This requires the election of a new national executive committee (NEC) with the responsibility for the government, management and control of the union.

The new NEC will consist of 48 members:

- 32 from industrial sectors—the NHS has 3 seats;
- 4 women's seats and

- 12 regional seats based on geographical boundaries (Scotland has 1 seat)

Nominations for the Scottish seat and for the 4 women's seats may be made at this month's Branch meeting.

Nominations for the 3 NHS seats may be made at a group meeting held between 1st September and 13th October 2003.

Group reps or members requiring further information should contact the Branch Chair, Donald Sime.

## Contacts



Chair	Donald Sime	0141 211 2246
Secretary	Maureen Jenkins	0141 201 3044
Treasurer	Richard Shaw	0141 201 0412
Vice-chair	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Assistant Secretary	Vacant	
Safety Officer	Bill Gray	0141 531 3715
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0405

## New Head of Health visits Scottish NHS Committee

Gail Cartmail (pictured, page 1), the recently appointed amicus head of health, was the guest speaker at the September meeting of the union's Scottish NHS Committee. Ms. Cartmail gave an impressive performance, answering questions and comments with frankness combined with tact and diplomacy—a feat her predecessor never managed, at least not on Scottish soil.

Among the topics covered by Ms Cartmail were the Scottish PIN guidelines (e.g. parental leave) which she praised as being far in advance of the rest of the NHS, the new amicus health web site and Agenda for Change. Most Trusts had a representative at the meeting—ask yours for a report.

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## Pregnant Women's Rights Abused

The Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) is to investigate pregnancy and maternity discrimination in the workplace. The decision follows an analysis of calls received by the EOC helpline. Problems encountered by pregnant women included missed promotion, change of salary terms or hours, non-payment of bonus, downgraded appraisals, disciplinary action over performance and even dismissal. Anyone wishing to contribute their views or experiences can email [pregnantatwork@eoc.org.uk](mailto:pregnantatwork@eoc.org.uk).

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## Agenda for Change Schools

Amicus is organising a series of schools for local representatives on Agenda for Change. Although the union has disseminated a significant amount of information on Agenda for Change, the topic is complex and the cause of significant concern for numbers of members. Accordingly, there will be two schools held in Glasgow, probably next month. If you have any concerns about the impact of Agenda for Change ask your Group Representative to raise them at one of the Schools.

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## Report Says Stress is Good

Contrary to the HSE approach to stress is a report prepared for painkiller manufacturer Anadin, in which psychologists claim that most British workers believe that stress improves job performance and satisfaction. The survey claimed that workers felt more focussed and worked better under pressure.

Derek Simpson, Joint General Secretary of Amicus, dismissed the claims and warned that stress in the workplace caused illness and fatigue.

## Branch Meeting Wednesday 24th September

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. National Executive Committee: nominations for Scottish region and women's seats.
5. Reports.
6. Motions.
7. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Thursday 30th October at 6.30 p.m. All meetings are held in the Scottish Trade Union Congress, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow G3 6NG.  
(Tea, coffee & biscuits 6.15 p.m.)

