

Branch Meeting
Thursday
30th
October
6.30 p.m.

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Helen McFarlane, Branch vice-chair, addressing the union's annual delegate conference in Blackpool

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Agenda for Change Will Be Fully Funded

The MSF NHS National Advisory Committee met early last month. For the first time ever, one of the guest speakers was the Secretary of State for Health (in England, that is). Dr John Reid was blunt in his speech and direct in his answers to questions.

However, he gave two very important assurances. The first is that Agenda for Change will be fully funded; the importance of this cannot be underestimated. Without full funding any improvements to

staff gradings would have to be made at the expense of the service to patients.

He also said that he would look at the backfill problem of trade union representatives having support when involved in industrial issues with Agenda for Change. Without appropriate cover for reps, there would be a very considerable extra strain placed on the other members of staff.

David Houlston

Public Sector Staff Paid Less Than Private Sector

A survey carried out by researchers at the University of Durham has revealed that public sector workers are paid, on average, £24 a week less than private sector workers. Ten years ago, average pay in the public sector was higher than average pay in the private sector.

However, over the last 10 years private sector pay has risen by 8.5% more than in the public sector to average £24,500 compared to £23,250—a difference of £1250 a year in favour of employees in the private sector.

It's not gloom and doom in the public sector though. The average pay of chief executives in the voluntary and public sectors topped £100,000 last year. The best paid NHS Trust chief executive got £178,000 for running Guys and St Thomas' in London, with Barts and London not that far behind on £165,000.

The survey also found a widening gap between the pay of male and female chief executives, with the women being paid an average of £7,000 less than the men.

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Branch nominees for new NEC

The two constituent parts of amicus (MSF and the AEEU) will be fully integrated with effect from the 1st January 2004. This integration requires the election of a new National Executive Committee (NEC). At the September meeting, the Branch decided to nominate the following individuals for the new NEC.

Scotland: Davy Brocket (Glasgow Lodge 0395)
Women: Vi Hoddart (Luton Motor Vehicles 0584)
Jane Stewart (Levers 9704)
Leonie Cooper (South Thames community 0828)

(nominations for the NHS seats could only be made from NHS Groups and not the branch)

Ballot papers for the Scotland, Women's and NHS seats will be sent to members at their home address.

New LRD Booklet

The Branch has supplied Senior group representatives with copies of the latest booklet from the Labour Research Department:- "Time off for trade union duties and activities - a guide for workplace and learning reps".

The Labour Research Department is an independent, trade union-based research organisation.

New Dyson Book

Roger Dyson, formerly professor of clinical management at Keele University and well known for his eccentric views on how to run hospital laboratories and radiography departments, has published a book entitled "Why the New NHS will Fail and What Should Replace It". The book explores how 'choice' is being used as a cover for service reductions. Pity he didn't notice when he was writing reports which suggested the decimation of hospital labs.

Confidence in NHS Slumps

An opinion poll carried out by MORI, the market research organisation, has revealed that the public is increasingly expecting the NHS to fail to improve. Asked whether they expected the NHS to get better, get worse or stay the same over the next few years the pessimists outnumbered the optimists by more than 10%. Despite this, seventy three percent of people interviewed believed that the NHS was critical to British society and that we must do everything we can to maintain it. A quarter of respondents were of the view that we could not maintain the NHS in its current form.

Branch Meeting Thursday 30th October

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of previous meeting and arising.
3. Correspondence.
4. Reports.
5. Motions.
6. A.O.C.B.

The next meeting of the Branch is the A.G.M. which will be held on Wednesday 26th November 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.)

