

Branch Meeting

**Wednesday
22nd
February
6.30 p.m.**

STUC
333 Woodlands Road
Glasgow
G3 6NG



Branch Chair Donald Sime in discussion prior to a meeting of the amicus Greater Glasgow NHS Group

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Government delays hospital PFI schemes

According to the British Medical Journal, several private finance initiative (pfi) schemes for hospitals are to be reviewed by the UK Government because of increasing concerns about the financing of the NHS.

Three schemes are reported to be under scrutiny. A £1.2 billion proposal to refurbish St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Hospitals was initially given approval by the North East London Strategic Health Authority and nearby Primary Care Trusts but is

now the subject of review by the Treasury and the Department of Health.

Two other PFI schemes are also reported to be under review Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust and Hillingdon Hospital in West London.

Whilst PFI projects have had some degree of success elsewhere in the public sector, within the NHS they seem doomed to be dogged by controversy and financial failings. Not really surprising when they are little more than a very expensive form of hire purchase.

Scottish press turns good news into NHS failure

At the end of January, both the tabloid and broadsheet press in Scotland ran stories with headlines suggesting that the number of NHS "managers" had soared. In fact the figures which they quoted as being for "senior managers and administrators" refer to ALL grades of administrative, clerical and management staff i.e. it includes clerks, secretaries, receptionists etc, the vast majority of whom could not be described as senior management or even management. The facts on NHS staffing in

Scotland are reasonably good news, and thus rather boring to Scotland's press:

Between September 2004 and September 2005:

Consultant medical staff	up 4.1%
GP service	up 2.1%
Registered nurses/midwives	up 2.4%
Therapists	up 4.4%
Qualified scientists	up 2.2%
Technical staff	up 7.6%
Pharmacy staff	up 6.7%
Ambulance staff	up 3.8%
Admin staff	up 4.4%
Works staff	up 2.7%

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	Derek Anstee	0141 211 2128
Women's Officer	Helen McFarlane	0141 211 0800
Education Officer	Ian Forbes	0141 211 4523
Newsletter Editor	James Ito	0141 201 0798



Branch Newsletter Circulation

At last month's meeting of the Branch it was decided to implement changes to the circulation of the Branch Newsletter. In future the main method of circulation will be by email.

- If you already receive the Newsletter by email (either directly from the Editor or via one of the local circulation lists) then you will continue to receive it by that route and do not need to take any action.
- If you would like to receive an email copy of the Newsletter, then send a blank email with the subject line 'subscribe newsletter' to: editor@amicusglasgowhealth.org
You do not have to be a union representative to subscribe.
- If you wish to continue receiving colour printed copies of the Newsletter, for example to place on a staff notice board, then the enclosed form should be completed and returned to the Branch Secretary.

Greater Glasgow Group

Representatives are reminded that the next meeting of the amicus Greater Glasgow Group Committee will be held on Wednesday 22nd February at 2.00 pm in the STUC, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow. Accredited representatives should be given paid leave to attend.

Safer workplaces with unions

A new report from the Health and Safety Executive states that non-unionised workplaces have less consultation, less staff participation and a worse safety culture than unionised workplaces. According to the report, where unions are not present there is "no evidence that workers requested or initiated new participatory or consultative arrangements" such as safety committees. In most cases managers, H & S officers, employee reps and workers were not aware of relevant health and safety regulations.

The full report (311kb) can be downloaded, free of charge, from: http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/hsl_pdf/2005/hsl0541.pdf

Scottish health sector conference

The union's Scottish Health Sector conference will be held on Friday 3rd March at 11.00am in the union's offices at John Smith House, 145 West Regent Street, Glasgow. All accredited amicus group representatives employed in the NHS should have received an invitation by now. If not, contact Regional Officer Michael Fuller's office as a matter of urgency (Tel: 0141 248 7131 or email catherine.morrin@amicustheunion.org)

Branch Meeting Wednesday 22nd February

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 will be held on Thursday 30th March 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.)

